

Personal share to be centrally fixed

# Poll tax lives on in reform of local finance

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE government is expected to confirm this week that a centrally-fixed "poll tax" will live on when it reforms local government finance. Councils will be told that a fixed percentage, possibly 20 per cent, of the new property tax will be a poll tax in all but name, with final bills determined by the number of adults in a household.

The retention of the poll tax component has been forced on ministers by a Conservative backbench and party lobby that insisted that some feature of the community charge should remain.

As the three main parties prepared for today's launch of the most important local elections campaign for four years, ministers accepted that they must make known their preferred composition of the local tax. Although details will be left for consultation, ministers acknowledge that they must give a lead on such a key decision as the makeup of a new tax.

They have decided that the "people" proportion of the new tax should be decided

centrally to prevent it being hijacked by leftwing councils and turned into the "son of poll tax". Irrespective of the value of their property, residents in the same council area will all pay the same modified poll tax. That will be based on a nationally-fixed proportion of what each local council's spending should be.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is pressing for a poll tax element as low as 20 per cent of average household bills. Thus, if the average tax liability for a household in a given council area was £500, the local poll tax would be £100 for all households with two adults. Where one person lived alone, it would go down to £50, and in homes with three or more people the poll tax would go up to £150.

People living in more highly-valued properties within a council area would not have to pay a higher poll tax, so that the percentage of their local tax bill taken by the poll tax element would be lower than the average. People living in cheaper properties would pay a greater proportion of their local levy as poll tax. The tax would thus retain what some backbenchers regard as a crucial feature of the existing community charge.

The cabinet's poll tax committee, which meets tomorrow, is also expected to agree that the decision on how homes should be valued should go out to consultation. The main options are capital values, the cost of rebuilding properties, and rental values, as in the old rating system. The front-runner is capital values, with five or six bands of prices aimed at relating the tax to people's ability to pay. The precise details of banding will again be a matter for consultation, but the principle is favoured since it avoids penalising those who improve their homes.

Under details of the new tax contained in a paper from Mr Heseltine, the poll tax element would be based on the centrally-fixed percentage — 20 per cent if he gets his way, higher if his opponents prevail — of the average tax in the

area. Council spending above government-desired levels would be reflected proportionately in both the property and people elements.

The government's inability to outline the full details of its poll tax replacement will put it on the defensive as it launches its local elections campaign today. Mr Heseltine and Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, will be challenged by Labour to state the policy on which their candidates will fight the May 2 contest. However, ministers are hoping that progress at tomorrow's committee meeting will enable more information to be given early in the campaign.

Neil Kinnock will try to capitalise on the government's difficulties today when he will again spell out Labour's plans to return to a fairer and modernised version of the rating system. David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said yesterday that it was hypocrisy for the Conservatives to delay their alternative proposals. A year ago they had chided Labour for "not having a clear alternative", he said.

"Their candidates across the country will be offering local people nothing. Their own supporters will have no clear idea what it is they are expected to vote on and the conclusion will have to be drawn that the confusion, dithering and incompetence will continue."

Capping row, page 6

Looks like  
we've still  
got a poll tax  
to not pay



## Gorbachev calls for a ban on strikes

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev is proposing a series of sweeping measures, including a nationwide moratorium on strikes and demonstrations, the dismissal of officials who disobey central orders and new law and order provisions, in an attempt to avert the political and economic collapse of the Soviet Union. The measures, which apparently stop short of a full state of emergency, form part of an "anti-crisis programme" which the Soviet leader presented yesterday to the country's highest decision-making body, the Council of the Federation.

The measures are designed to combat widespread industrial unrest, increasing nationalist violence and a struggle for power between the centre and the republics which has paralysed the state and repub-

lic legislatures and rendered the president's power ineffectual. According to Mr Gorbachev's press spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, the president outlined yesterday's meeting by emphasising the "alarming situation" and the "extreme danger" facing the country.

Mr Gorbachev has increasingly tried to work through the council, which brings together the three top officials of each constituent republic, in an attempt to ensure that central policies are implemented. But the absence yesterday of six key members, including the Russian leader, Boris Yeltsin, who was said to be on holiday, suggested that the proposed measures had little chance of success.

Georgia independence, page 7

## Pretoria to end colour register

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AN 11-LINE bill repealing the 1950 Population Registration Act, which classifies people by their skin colour, was tabled in Cape Town yesterday as the South African government launched a hectic parliamentary programme to dismantle apartheid laws.

It signalled the start of legislative action to flesh out the promises made by President de Klerk in February. World leaders have made it plain that moves to end South Africa's international isolation will be made only when apartheid is removed from the statute book. The Population Registration Act, under which people have been racially segregated from birth to death, is a cornerstone of the system.

The new bill does not do away with it completely. It contains a "transitional provision" which stipulates that anything done so far, in terms of the existing act, will "remain in force as if the repeal had not taken place". This is because the government insists on maintaining the present population register for elections until it negotiates and implements a new constitution.

During the next two months there will be fierce debate as further bills are tabled to repeal the Group Areas Act, the Land Act and other laws restricting black land-ownership, as well as aspects of security legislation. The Group Areas Act is expected to be debated next week.

Mandela trial, page 9

## Iraq and Britain trade threats on Kurd haven

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and Iraq exchanged threats over the setting up of a safety zone for Kurds in Iraq last night, as Britain began gathering support for the proposal at the United Nations.

Hours after Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, had said that he planned Kurdish haven in northern Iraq would, if necessary, be underpinned by force, Baghdad declared that it would oppose the plan by all means at its disposal.

Saddam Hammadi, the Iraqi prime minister, described the idea of a safe zone as a "suspicious proposal" and accused the West of exaggerating the scale of the refugee problem. "It is another circle of plots against Iraq and its sovereignty and Iraq will oppose it by all means," he told the Iraqi news agency.

The minister's veiled threat raised the possibility of renewed fighting between allied and Iraqi forces and underscored Mr Hogg's insistence that any UN presence in northern Iraq would have to be prepared to use force.

The United States is ready to support the British proposal but it wants other countries to take the lead in promoting the plan. Washington does not want to be seen participating in something that could lead to the disintegration of Iraq, and the administration is keen to foster the same international approach used so successfully in the assembly of the original allied coalition.

As the United Nations began discussion of the proposal last night, it was announced in New York that the organisation was sending a Belgian special envoy to in-

vestigate the Kurds' plight. The mission by Eric Suy, an advisor to the Belgian foreign ministry, is considered essential to the successful establishment of the special zone. There was some confusion over the mission last night, however, after Mr Suy told Brussels television that he was not in favour of setting up such a zone at this stage.

It was emphasised in London that Britain is advocating a principle that could be applied in any part of the country, and that protection of the Arabs and Shia in the south could be covered by the same provision now that US forces had begun leaving. The measure had been proposed for the Kurds first because of the urgency.

"What we want to do is to get the Kurds off the mountains, preferably into the villages and towns... monitored by the United Nations," Mr Hogg told BBC radio. "That does imply the prospect of some force or threat of force if the attacks continue. It would require UN observers in quite substantial numbers and their presence would have to be underpinned by actual physical force or the prospect of it."

Mr Hogg denied, however, that the scheme amounted to interference in Iraq's internal affairs, as the UN had passed a resolution calling on President Saddam Hussein to stop the massacre of the Kurds. "We have, I think, the authority of the United Nations in the last resolution in order to ensure the safety of the Kurds and this is a method of devising that, delivering that."

He said the haven would provide for safety for the

Kurds but emphasised that the Iraqi president needed to be removed to make them truly safe. "We need to see the end of Saddam Hussein, but that is a matter for Iraq and for the Iraqi peoples."

President Ozal of Turkey accused Baghdad yesterday of trying to deport the population of northern Iraq and said 300,000 more Kurds were fleeing to Turkey. (Reuters)

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## RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE  
**FAMOUS GROUSE**  
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

## Dropping comfort amid the snowy peaks

Allied airmen are flying missions around the clock to keep Kurdish refugees in Iraq fed, Michael Rhyon reports

WE came in at about 500 feet, twisting and banking through the precipitous gorges, our fighter escort ahead of us to warn off any Iraqi attackers.

The huge rear doors of the Hercules were open, and the wind rushed through the aircraft belly, whistling above the dull roar of the four engines. We dipped lower, almost touching the jagged crest of the mountain. Suddenly we saw the Kurds in the valley — groups of cars abandoned on the dirt road, a few tents, blankets and clothes spread out in the morning sun.

The drop sergeant gave the signal and four pallets, carrying 48 cartons of emergency food rations in canvas wrapping, slid down the rollers on the aerial floor with a whoosh as the plane climbed steeply away.

The green parachutes opened, and the emergency relief floated down on to the Iraqi mountainside. We banked sharply and saw the parachutes from the plane ahead crumple up on the ground. Within seconds we had left the valley and were wheeling round for a second drop. There were more parachutes below looking from the air like a ragged, gipsy encampment, but curiously deserted.

The four C-130s, each about 30 seconds behind the other, made a big arc among the snow-capped peaks. The signal was given, and another four pallets raced out of the plane.

The doors closed, and we wheeled around again — this time to check where the supplies had landed and how accessible they were. The first drop was a bit short — "but they've got legs," the plane's engineer commented. Some white parachutes were flapping on the mountainside. "Those are the Brits," one crewman said. "They came over this way yesterday."

We passed beneath two other relief planes of the Royal Air Force and two of the French Air Force earlier on the two-hour flight from Incirlik, the Turkish airbase. Continued page 20, col 5

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Benedict Nightingale says there are several ways to stifle W.S. Gilbert, and the D'Oyly Carte Gondoliers uses one of them Page 13

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Kelley: Reagans unlikely to seek legal redress

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

WHILE customers have swarmed by the hundreds of thousands into America's book shops for the new biography of Nancy Reagan, her husband, the former president, has dismissed its sensational claims as pure falsehood designed to enrich Kitty Kelley, the author, and her publishers. "While I am accustomed to reports that stray from the truth, the flagrant and absurd falsehoods... clearly exceed the bounds of decency," Ronald Reagan said in a statement a day after most of the US media gave wide currency to Ms Kelley's claims that the former presidential couple led promiscuous lives.

"They are patently untrue, everything from the allegation of marijuana use to marital infidelity, to my failure to be present at the birth of my daughter,

Patti," Mr Reagan said. But his denial in Los Angeles on Monday did nothing to reverse the rush for the book, published by Simon and Schuster in an initial run of 600,000 copies.

"I have never seen anything like it in my publishing career," Jack McKeown, vice-president of the company, said. In the first few hours on Monday the firm had received orders for at least 100,000 additional copies, he said.

While Ms Kelley promoted her book in non-stop television appearances, other authors and editors have begun expressing doubts about her techniques and accuracy. Patti Davis, the Reagans' daughter, claims that Ms Kelley misrepresented her statements.

The Washington Post pointed out that a key quotation from an anonymous White House staff member about the alleged affair with Frank Sinatra had

already been published in Ms Kelley's biography of the singer in 1986. Even Donald Trump, himself a victim of a disrespectful press, dismissed the Sinatra story as nonsense. "I know both the parties. Frank Sinatra never touched that woman in that way, I promise you that much. His wife is a legitimate beauty and this man had Ava Gardner — remember that."

Given the extensive leeway accorded to authors under America's libel laws, it is considered unlikely that the Reagans will seek legal redress. Under the law of most states, it is hard for a public figure to prove that they have been defamed and court cases merely add to publicity. Reagan family friends have closed ranks around the couple and are said to be advising them to ride out the storm.

Scandal stalks the mighty, page 14

مذاهب اسلام







# White couple lose battle to bring up black foster child

By BILL FROST

A WHITE couple failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday to win back the black child that they had brought up since he was younger than a month old.

James and Lynne Melling, foster parents of St Anne's on Sea, near Blackpool, had remortgaged their home and spent £28,000 in a legal battle to prevent the child, now aged two, from being taken away from them. The court dismissed their application for leave to seek a judicial review

of a decision by Lancashire county council to place the child elsewhere, just four days before Christmas.

Three judges were told how Mr Melling, aged 42, and his wife, aged 40, had "showed the child, David, with love and affection since he was 24 days old in February 1989". At the beginning of last year the Mellings said that they wanted to make a permanent home for the boy and bring him with their other adopted son, Tyrone, aged nine. In November, however, the county council told the couple that long-term carers had been found for David, who would eventually adopt him and bring him up with their two other adopted black children.

Matthew Kelly, counsel for Mr and Mrs Melling, told the court that the authority had a rigid policy on placing children with others of the same cultural and ethnic background. "The council has paid too little attention to the deep and binding love the couple had bonded with David, and he with them," he said.

Lord Justice Balcombe, one of the three judges hearing the appeal, said that there had never been any suggestion that the couple had given other than excellent care to the child. He went on: "One cannot but feel sympathy for them after they raised David for the first two years of his life. They have obviously grown very fond of him and want to keep him on a permanent basis."

The council said Mr and Mrs Melling knew that they were only short-term carers

while a long-term solution was being sought. The judge said that it was for the court to interpret the law, and under the 1980 Child Care Act the couple would have to prove that the local authority had been so unreasonable, its decision so perverse, that no other local authority could make the same decision in similar circumstances.

Passing judgment, Lord Justice Balcombe said that in his view no court could come to that decision, and that the application for a judicial review must be dismissed. He could only sympathise with the couple who had "taken on the task of giving love and care to children whose own parents did not".

After the hearing, Mrs Melling said she had hoped that the interests of the child would outweigh the letter of the law. "It's all very well these judges having sympathy for us. We have had lots of sympathy — what we wanted was the child returned to us, or, at the very least, a review of our case."

"It appears that, although they may agree with us emotionally, they do not want to set a precedent. Since David was taken away we have not heard a thing about him, not even a note to say how he was doing."

Graham Bainbridge, solicitor for Mr and Mrs Melling, said after the judgment that an appeal to the House of Lords would be considered. He added: "They simply fell in love with David, and it broke their hearts when he was taken away."

## BA libel payout to former air hostess

A FORMER air hostess dismissed for an alleged champagne fraud won "substantial" libel damages from British Airways in the High Court yesterday.

Lynn Hooper, aged 26, was cleared of the alleged fraud by an industrial tribunal in November 1989, but remarks made by Peter Owen, then BA's operations director, made it impossible for her to return to her job. The dismissal of Mrs Hooper led to a one-day strike and industrial action that cost BA £5 million.

The airline paid her £9,500 in compensation after withdrawing its defence to her claim for unfair dismissal. It has now paid an undisclosed five-figure sum in damages for libel over comments that, in spite of its concession to the industrial tribunal, it still believed her to be guilty.

The alleged fraud concerned the supposed sale by Mrs Hooper of free quarter-bottles of champagne meant for club class passengers to economy class travellers.

However, Mrs Hooper, now the mother of son aged nine months, said: "I have finally cleared my name. I don't care tuppence for the damages. It is the principle that was at stake. They used me as an example and I set out to clear my name, and that is what I have done."

Michael Short, Mrs Hooper's solicitor, told Mr Justice Drake that she had been dismissed in April 1989 after an investigation by the airline into alleged unauthorised stock transfers. Mrs Hooper, of Fair Oak, near Eastleigh, Hampshire, had "at all times insisted she was innocent of any dishonesty", Mr Short said.

Mr Owen and BA said that any suggestion of dishonesty was unintended, and unreservedly withdrew it, apologised and agreed to pay the damages and legal costs of about £10,000.

## EC aid expected to fight oil fires

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission is expected today to announce an aid package for tackling the oil fires in Kuwait, after an appeal for help yesterday from the country's oil minister.

The package, which could total £6 million, may be followed by a £4.2 million grant for combating air and sea pollution and for studying the long-term effects of the fires on health and the environment. Officials at the commission said that a meeting of oil companies and European fire-fighting firms was expected to be called to decide where and how the money should be spent.

Yesterday it emerged that scores of inventive British proposals for tackling the fires, which critics claim have been gathering dust at the trade and industry department, are to be finally given serious consideration. The whereabouts of the proposals,

submitted by inventors and groups of engineers, have been unclear for many weeks.

The trade and industry department said yesterday, however, that the proposals were being taken to experts at the Offshore Supplies Office in Glasgow, an arm of the energy department, where they are to be screened to identify any that might work.

An enquiry from Kuwaiti officials about what Britain could offer to help tackle the fires directly has led to a surge of interest. It was originally thought that Britain would play only a support role for the American fire-fighting teams.

Peter Lilley, trade and industry secretary, arrived in Kuwait yesterday leading a trade mission and said he hoped that Britain would play a big role in rebuilding the emirate. Contracts for British firms would be in "very large numbers over a long period".

## Classical case of the familiar from afar

By PHILIP HOWARD

THE fall of communism is bringing the Soviet Union back into the comity of scholarship. The largest panel of papers at the annual meeting of the Classical Association, at Warwick university, yesterday concerned what scholars call the Black Sea and Colchis, and modern Russians call Georgia.

For the first time, there was a lecturer from Moscow, Gotscha Tsetskhladze, at present a research scholar at Lincoln College, Oxford. He demonstrated how, as early as the sixth-century BC, Colchis was becoming part of the Greek world. From the fifth century onwards, people at the eastern end of the Black Sea started to worship gods from the Greek pantheon, such as Athena, Ares, and Hecate. Greek settlers brought the cults of Apollo and the Dioscuri, Dionysus and Heracles, those wild, macho deities, were especially popular. You could say that they still are in Georgia. The metal artefacts of Colchis are wild eastern-frontier, but beautiful and clearly European, including a dead ringer for our own dear Green Man. The Russian enigma now unwrapping from its mystery turns out to be not such a riddle, but strangely familiar.

Dr David Braund, of Exeter university, showed how the eastern Black Sea became central to Roman ideology, with its Argonautic and El Dorado myths. It was also an imperial commitment with its tyrants, and bandits, and potentialities for unrest. Plus ça change. Moving around the Black Sea to Turkey, Dr Anna Wilson, of Birmingham university, considered Cappadocian bishops and their women. A father of the fourth-century church, Chrysostom, consoled the nun Olympias, depressed by his absence: "Anyone who knows the power of love knows what I mean." The Black Sea is not so far away from our old culture.

Leading article, page 15



Newcomers' day: Patricia Scotland with her father at the House of Lords yesterday before taking silk to become Britain's first black woman QC, and (right) Helen Kennedy with her son and daughter at her London chambers before becoming one of 73 new barristers to be sworn in. She is wearing men's knickerbockers instead of silks.

## Stirring deeds as drinkers steam in

By ALAN HAMILTON

AN ENGLISHMAN'S second home is his public house and he will, if required, emulate Horatius in defending the bridge that leads him to it.

Stirring deeds were done yesterday at the Steamboat Inn, Sawley, Derbyshire, a hostelry whose only access is by an early 19th-century bridge across the Erewash canal. It began when workmen from the British Waterways Board (BWB) arrived to demolish it, thus cutting off the Steamboat from its customers, its beer deliveries and the rest of the world.

However, Steamboat customers procured a cabin cruiser, boarded it and anchored it under the bridge to protect their sole access. The demolition crew was obliged to retreat. Bureaucracy was to blame. BWB had planned to rebuild the bridge, which has a load limit of only 2½ tons, to modern standards at the start of this year, when trade at the Steamboat is quiet.

When the workmen eventually arrived to begin work yesterday, spring trade at the public house was already picking up and David Rowley, the landlord, saw disaster looming. He said yesterday that, had the bridge been closed, he stood to lose £150,000 in summer trade because it would take four months to replace the structure.

The invading workmen retreated and BWB agreed to delay replacement of the bridge until the end of this year.

## Keegan tells of car attack

By RAY CLANCY

KEVIN Keegan, the former England football captain, yesterday described how he was attacked in his car by a man wielding a baseball bat. He was treated in hospital for head and shoulder injuries.

Two men demanded that he hand over his money when he pulled off the motorway because he was tired after a late ferry crossing on his way home from Spain. He said: "I was woken up by a baseball bat coming straight through the windscreen towards my head. I did not know what was happening and now realise I was part of a very vicious robbery."

"There were two of them and one was swinging the bat into my face and head. They said they would kill me if I did

not hand over my money," said Mr Keegan, aged 40. He gave the men £700 in pesetas.

He said that he had pulled off the M25 for a rest at Reigate, Surrey, on Monday



Keegan: baseball bat swung at his head

night and stopped his silver Range Rover next to a car park on the A217. "I thought I would only sleep for about 20 minutes but I must have dozed off for almost two hours when the attack took place at about 11.45pm."

"I'm still getting blinding headaches, I've got blurred vision and I'm having difficulty standing. They could not have recognised me, I was just covered in blood from the time the bat smashed through the window and hit me on the head. I'm lucky to be alive," he added. Mr Keegan stopped a motorist who telephoned the emergency services.

Police want to trace the occupants of a light-coloured Ford Escort seen near the scene of the attack.

## French chefs tuck in à l'anglaise

FROM FRANCES BESELL IN BIARRITZ

IT IS hard to imagine 200 French *citoyens* sitting down last night to eat their *couronne d'agneau* with mint sauce à l'anglaise, even harder to imagine if you know they were maître cuisiniers de France at the opening dinner of their 36th Assemblée Générale.

These soberly dressed gentlemen and their ladies from southwestern France were at the Hotel du Palais in Biarritz, sitting at elegant tables fanning out in the half circle of La Rotonde. Course followed course. The lamb was preceded by a clear oxtail consommé flavoured

with fine sherry and garnished with truffled chicken. The first course was a coulibiac of salmon, a pastry filled with rice, salmon and chopped hard-boiled eggs, surrounded by two sauces and salmon caviare. More gastronomic surprises of a British kind awaited the French stomach, however. After the mint sauce with lamb came the pud, as fine a crème brûlée as you'd taste anywhere. Expressions, however, were anxious at this point. Where was the cheese?

A brave chef, indeed, who would do that to the French; serve the pudding before the

cheese. An even braver chef who would cook for so many of his peers. But what to make of a chef and his brigade who served an English meal to French chefs in France? And if that chef were a Frenchman himself?

For that is what Michel Bourdin, chef de cuisine at the Connaught hotel in London, has done: taken his colleagues Guy Moulleron, Michael Aldridge and Eric Duval to Biarritz, along with wild Scottish salmon, new season's Southdown lamb, Jersey Royals and Siltón. Even the cream and sugar were brought in to make an

authentic crème brûlée, all of it trundling across France under the banner of Food from Britain.

It was the perfect setting for an expression of this *entente cordiale gastronomique*. The Palais may have been built by Napoleon for Eugénie, but Biarritz has long been a favourite of the British. Asquith became prime minister here and streets are named after British kings and queens. The ghosts of those illustrious visitors must have been smiling.

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**Yesterday's prices.**

**Today's value.**

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## Bankers queue for £14,000 health job

By JILL SHERMAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
CORRESPONDENT

UNEMPLOYED bankers and estate agents are among 150 applicants for a £14,000 junior management post in one of the new National Health Service trusts, a job considered one notch up from a personal secretary.

The post of community liaison officer at West Dorset Community Hospitals Trust attracted over 1,000 enquiries almost immediately. Bob Rottchell, the trust's director of operational services, said he would normally expect about 30 enquiries for such a post. However, about 150 applications had already arrived.

The post involves interviewing patients in hospital outpatient departments and at home to assess the quality of health services. The trust, with its powers to set its own salaries, offered slightly above the going rate and included a car, a Ford Fiesta.

Mr Rottchell said: "I didn't expect anything like the response we had. This just reflects the market place and shows how desperate things really are."

## Ministers to stress self-help as best way to cut crime

THE launch of the first national Crime Prevention Week on Monday will mark a new peak in government efforts to make the public shoulder more responsibility for tackling crime.

Ministers say that the £4.5 million cost of the campaign is easily justified by research that suggests that one in five drivers does not lock his or her car and that nearly one out of three burglars is able to walk in without a forced entry.

However, while the rapid growth of community initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch is a source of government pride, the impact on crime nationally seems to have been negligible. Last year, 4,542,000 offences were recorded in England and Wales, 79 per cent more than the number registered in 1979.

Part of that rise stems from increased reporting of crime, something which a national crime week can only heighten. However, there have also been big increases in the figures for crimes with high reporting rates such as vehicle theft. In

**The government thinks the public is not doing enough to stop crime, reports Quentin Cowdry**

1990, 494,005 vehicles were recorded as stolen, 60 per cent more than in 1979. For burglaries, about two thirds of which are reported, the increase was 85 per cent. In the past 11 years, central government spending on law and order has risen by 70 per cent.

During national crime week, ministers will be pointing out that if homes had been properly secured there might have been about 300,000 fewer burglaries last year. They will also point to a recent survey that indicates that auto-crime is far worse than in many similar industrial nations.

The week will see hundreds of exhibitions, seminars, competitions and other activities designed to bring home the

message that ordinary citizens can combat crime. Participants will include police forces, local authorities, probation services, the charities Crime Concern and Victim Support and dozens of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and police-sponsored crime prevention panels.

Many local crime prevention schemes seem to be working. They involve concerted efforts by police, public and town hall officials to make houses less "burglar friendly". However, there is also evidence that Neighbourhood Watch schemes merely divert burglars districts near by.

Dr Jock Young, head of Middlesex polytechnic's criminology department, thinks the real problem is the government's refusal to recognise the part poor housing, unemployment and social divisions play in creating crime. Citizens, he said, could do more to guard against crime, but more emphasis was needed on countering what he believed were the underlying wellsprings of lawlessness.



Recycled: Police Sergeant Steve Smith (left) and 1 Downing, a probation officer, working on some of the bicycles to be used in Britain's first free bike school launched in Exeter yesterday. The cycles, unclaimed being stolen, have been painted a dazzling lime green will be left unchained in racks for the use of residents joint venture between the police, social services probation service is aimed at deterring cycle joyriders cutting thefts of private bicycles. The organisers hope exotic colour will protect the cycles from theft.

## SOME SAVINGS THE TAX MAN WILL NEVER GET HIS HANDS ON.

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## New tests urged on car safety

By PETER VICTOR

NEW procedures are needed to test the way in which cars protect their occupants in a crash, according to the Transport and Road Research Laboratory. Present tests for head-on impacts are unlikely to provide a true picture of the probable damage from most such crashes, it says.

The laboratory, in Crowthorne, Berkshire, yesterday demonstrated one of a series of new tests involving partial front-end impacts. A test car was crashed at 37.5 mph into a 200-ton concrete block, to which a honeycomb of metal was fitted to represent the front of an oncoming car.

Richard Lowe, the laboratory's head of occupant safety, said: "Two-thirds of fatal vehicle impacts - some 1,600 - involve front-end collisions. Two-thirds of those - some 1,100 - involve partial overlap."

He added: "A real accident is very different to driving a car into a concrete block, where the full width of the front of the car absorbs the impact. In reality, drivers will attempt to swerve to avoid the accident altogether." The laboratory was trying to devise a test that would be accepted internationally, leading to better vehicle design and fewer deaths in accidents.

● Jaguar is turning to the Japanese for components for its limousines and sports cars. Bill Hayden, Jaguar's chairman, disclosed yesterday that he is to award a multi-million pound contract for air-conditioning systems to Nippon Denso.

Jaguar may also link with the Japanese pressings company Oghara, which wants to negotiate for a contract to supply body panels. Both suppliers plan to create jobs at sites in Britain.

## Motorway message to get tri

By NICK NOTTALL

TECHNOLOGY COMES TO THE MOTORWAY. SOPHISTICATED controlled traffic systems appear on a motorway summer in trials to test and improve traffic flow.

The trials, announced yesterday by Christopher Chope, the roads minister, involve using high-technology to offer an almost instant number of messages entering a range of conditions. The signs, to be tested on the M25's south-west section between junctions 7 and 8, give warnings of congestion allowing drivers to take native routes. Mr Chope said this was intended to ensure more efficient use of the trunk road network.

Four main companies, Siemens, Philips, Carver Engineering, and NEI Controls, hold the million contract, and a on trial will include emitting diodes and fibre optic technology. Messages by controlled by the police. Details of the trial disclosed at the open Birmingham of Traffic which also features a ultra-sound system to detect empty spaces in car and provides signals to



Chope: seeking a more efficient use of road

## Dispute over fifth terminal rages on

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A DISPUTE over who should pay to improve the roads leading to Heathrow has still not been settled as the long-running controversy over plans to build a fifth passenger terminal at the airport moves one stage further over the next few weeks.

The transport department is insisting that BAA pays most of the estimated £300 million which, it says, will be needed to widen the M25 and M4 and build access roads to the new passenger terminal planned for the site of the Perry Oaks sewage works. However, two decisions are about to be taken which could trigger a long and complex public enquiry into the creation of Britain's single biggest air terminal. Next week, Thames Water, which owns the Perry Oaks works, will decide whether to move the plant to a site near Slough,

Berkshire, or to one near Twickenham rugby ground southwest London. early next month, BAA, hopes to build the terminal at a total cost of, than £1.5 billion, will for announce that it is ready submit its proposal.

Plans for the new terminal have existed for more four years and have resisted by local politicians and residents. They certain to protest BAA's formal fifth terminal proposal when it is submitted and to make strong representations to the public on which will follow. The certain to be joined by the choice for the new terminal - who are expected object to the extension of present site. All sides be the public enquiry will go on for up to five years.

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HYDRO-ELECTRIC



# Tory council refuses to cut its budget below capped limit

By CRAIG SETON

THE Conservative-led Warwickshire county council refused yesterday to cut its budget to below the government's capping limit and decided to appeal to Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, to abandon spending controls he has imposed on the authority.

Warwickshire is one of three Tory councils among 14 designated for capping by Mr Heseltine for setting budgets above government spending limits. After agreeing cuts of £7.5 million in February, Warwickshire's budget of £278 million for 1991-2 remains £6 million above the government's assessment of the authority's needs.

The council has insisted that further cuts of £5 million would have a disastrous consequence on services, especially education. New reductions could mean 600 redundancies, including 150 teachers. Yesterday, at an extraordinary meeting of its policy and resources committee, members voted to

challenge the government by making a direct appeal to the environment secretary to use the discretion he has to allow the authority to keep the budget it has agreed.

The committee also urged Mr Heseltine to respond urgently to its appeal, within 28 days if possible. It fears that if it does not receive a definitive reply until as late as June, it would face additional costs of over £500,000 involved in re-billing householders for poll tax payments.

John Vereker, the Conservative leader of the council, said after yesterday's meeting: "We are one of the most efficient councils in the country and we can clearly demonstrate the government spending targets are a computer-driven formula which bears no relationship to our needs."

The council said that budget cuts made more than a year ago meant that the environment secretary's assessment of the council's spending needs had started from an unmat-

rally low base line. Half the cuts of £7.5 million already agreed will be achieved by reductions in the education budget, including a 25 per cent reduction in youth service provision. The police budget has lost over £1 million, two fire stations are being closed and some libraries will be closed for half or a full day a week. Further cuts of £6 million would again affect education, the police, fire and social services.

One of the three Conservative-controlled councils to be charge-capped is likely to comply with the ruling. The policy committee of Langbaurgh on Tees borough council yesterday voted not to use its statutory right to appeal after officers warned them that they could lose more money by contesting the order than the amount they have been told to cut. The decision will go for ratification at a special meeting of the full council later this month.

Poll tax options, page 1



Second sitting: Leonard McComb, ARA, copies Cézanne's *The Artist's Wife* in an *Armech*, one of the works from the Emil G. Bahrle Collection, Zurich, on show at the Royal Academy in London. He hopes to learn more of Cézanne's methods

# New life peers to strengthen front benches

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major is to announce his first batch of life peers this month to be groomed as potential ministers in the Lords. He is expected to make Lord Heseltine chief whip in the upper House.

Among about 12 names on the Downing Street honour list will be those of a black or Asian peer, a leading charity administrator, and a top QC, all destined for Labour's front bench. The Tory peers are likely to be joined by a former MP with experience of the Commons whip's office, who will be marked down for a similar job in the upper House.

The substantial list of candidates put in to Downing Street by Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, has been severely pruned by the prime minister to give the Tories and Labour parity with an expected five new peers each, together with a Liberal Democrat and one independent.

At the request of Lord Waddington, leader of the Lords, Mr Major will break away from Margaret Thatcher's tendency of using all honours lists as a reward for public or political services. Instead, he has copied Labour's practice of picking "working peers" who contribute regularly to the role of the Lords as a revising chamber.

Lord Waddington, the former home secretary, is understood to be dismayed by the quality of the front bench he inherited four months ago in the Lords, with the reliance on hard-working but inexperienced hereditary peers. He wants to shift the balance by introducing more life peers.

Mr Major is expected to name Lord Heseltine chief whip in the Lords when Lord Denham steps down at the late spring bank holiday recess next month after 30 years on the front bench. Lord Heseltine had been reluctant to give up his job as industry minister but has been persuaded to take on the challenge by Lord Denham and his troops.

Lady Blatch, the junior environment minister and a close friend of the prime minister, was a contender but is likely to be promoted to another ministry instead, possibly taking over Lord Heseltine's job at the trade

and industry department. Lord Whilshaw, married down Lord Heseltine as a natural successor to Lord Denham more than five years ago when he was in the whips' office, before going on to become heritage minister. Like Lord Denham, he has the aptitude to sense rebellion beginning in the Tory ranks.

There has been an embarrassing dearth of suitable candidates in recent years willing to take on the long hours in the Lords for a junior minister's salary of £33,241 a year, nearly £6,000 less than for a Commons minister. But, as part of his strategy of strengthening the front bench, Lord Waddington has won them Treasury approval for a special night subsistence allowance of £4,672 a year backdated to last April.

The Lords leader also wants to score a propaganda coup by bringing Lady Flather, the Asian peer, on



Lord Denham: ending 30 years on front bench to his front bench soon, together with another life peer, Lady Cumberlege.

Lord Cledwyn of Penryn, Labour's leader in the upper House, has spent nine years building up a formidable front bench from out of the way few new peers named by Mrs Thatcher. Top of Mr Kinnock's submission to the honours list is a QC as a potential Lord Chancellor in a Labour government, and a member of the ethnic minorities.

Labour has only 110 peers and at least 20 can no longer attend through age or ill health. A vote of 60 Labour peers is now considered a good score. The Conservatives have more than 500 peers on their whip, although only 120 are regular attenders. Government defeats are invariably caused by all-party rebellions.

# EC unity to be set in standing stones

By WILLIAM CASE

A STONE monument symbolising European cultural unity in 1992 is to be built close to Stonehenge and Avebury, in Wiltshire, bringing the tradition of West Country monoliths to the 20th century.

The European Community of Stones (ECOS) will comprise a dozen monoliths, one from each European Community country, landscaped into a Greek-style amphitheatre being built at Frome Community College in Somerset. New stones will be added as membership of the EC is extended.

The stones, about 17ft high and weighing 16 tonnes, will be delivered from quarries throughout Europe during the year. The British monolith will be a limestone rock from the Forster Yeoman quarry in the Mendips.

Mike Walker, chairman of ECOS, said yesterday that the project aimed to give a voice to small and friendly towns across Europe and to extend cultural exchange in the arts and education. "Frome reflects countless hundreds of other similar towns in Europe. The unique community of stones will symbolise our common purpose."

The cost of £200,000 is being met by government and European grants as well as local businessmen. Mr Walker said: "Industries are leaping at the opportunity of helping to build an historic symbol of 1992."

Caterpillar trucks have started carving out the tiers of the semi-circular amphitheatre, which will hold up to 500 people. A work experience scheme has been organised for the construction of the drystone walls and laying of the flagstone seats. Finally, sculptors from each country will carve their respective monoliths into works of abstract art ready for the opening in August next year.

# Corruption case MP remanded

Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, was yesterday remanded on bail until April 23 by magistrates at Bow Street, central London, accused of accepting gifts in return for attempts to use his parliamentary influence.

He is alleged to have accepted airline tickets for himself and his family in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and tickets to Spanish riding exhibition in return for trying to influence the appointment of a new British Rail chairman and contracts between BR and Plasser Railway Machinery. Mr Greenway, of Cambridge Street, Westminster, was not in court yesterday and will not appear on April 23.

Also remanded were Norbert Jurasek, Plasser managing director, aged 49, of Loddon Drive, Wargrave, Berkshire; David Currie, former BR civil engineer, 64, of Tylers Green, Buckinghamshire; and Michael Brooks, 62, of Bishford, Hampshire. All were accused of conspiring to corrupt.

# 20mph limits

Speed limits of 20mph are to be introduced in some Welsh residential areas in an attempt to cut road deaths by a third by the year 2000.

# Acid attack

Police believe animal rights activists may have been responsible for an acid and superglue attack on two meat suppliers' vans at Hippeholme, West Yorkshire.

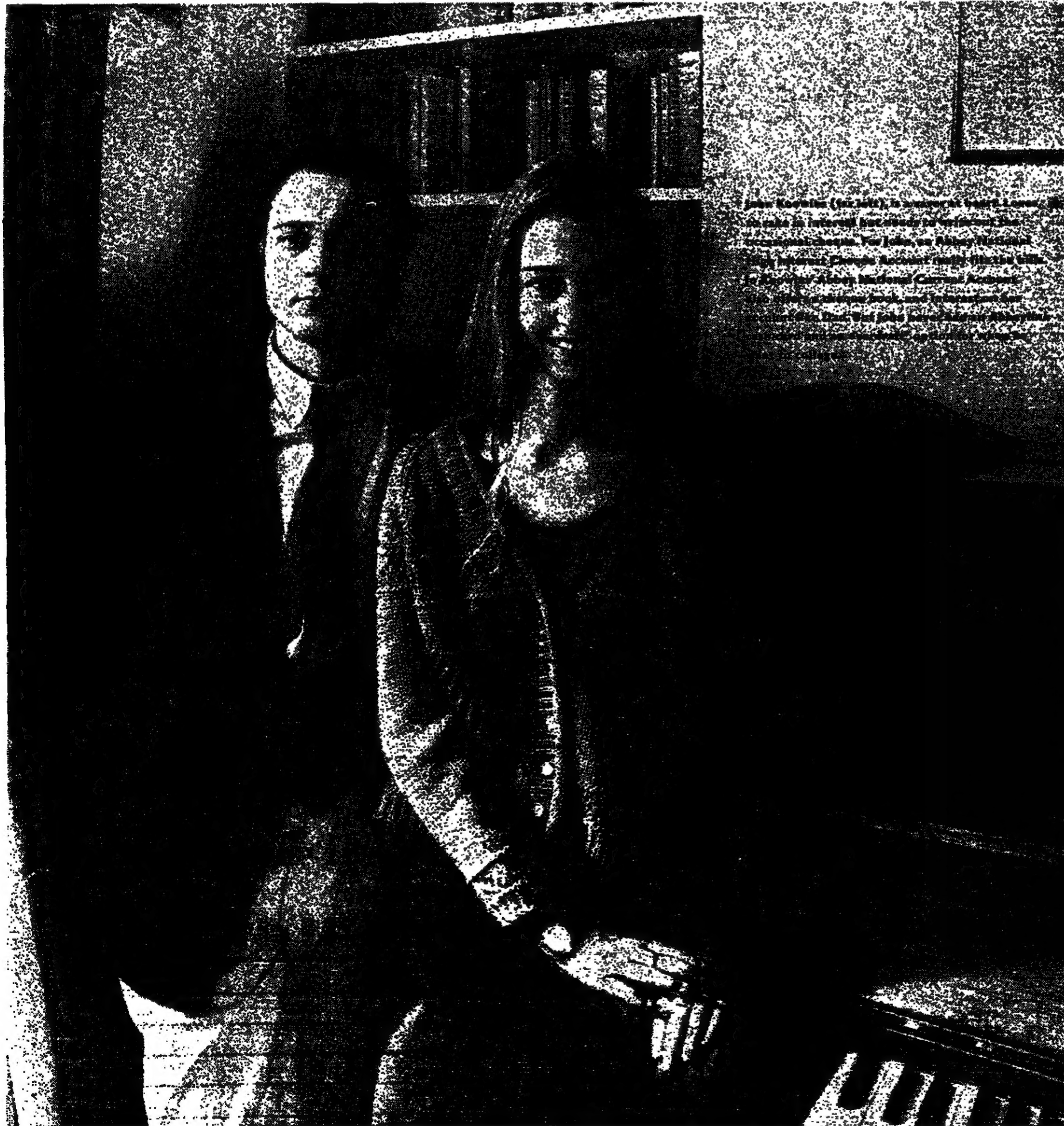
# Jobs blow

The Japanese company Ogihara has dropped plans to open a components plant in Crewe, Cheshire, because of the recession. It would have provided 350 new jobs.

# Hospital fires

More than 100 mothers and babies were evacuated from Birmingham maternity hospital after two fires broke in a suspected arson attack.

# LIKE FATHER LIKE daughter



John Kewster (left) and his daughter, 11, are seen in a photograph of the artist's wife, one of the works from the Emil G. Bahrle Collection, Zurich, on show at the Royal Academy in London. He hopes to learn more of Cézanne's methods

ABBEY NATIONAL

The habit of a lifetime



# Deputies vote unanimously for Georgian independence

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

GEORGIA yesterday formally reasserted its independence from Moscow, giving a spectacular and emotional reply to growing Soviet intervention in the ethnic conflict raging in the north of the republic. There were scenes of rejoicing in the elegant, tree-lined central boulevard of Tbilisi, the capital, as the parliament voted unanimously to restore the independence Georgia lost in the Soviet takeover of 1921.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the nationalist Georgian president, warned deputies that their resolution did not automatically mean secession. The declaration, which follows the adoption of the flag, name and symbols of the pre-1921 state last autumn, was, however, a dramatic snub to the Kremlin.

Replying to what they see as a Soviet campaign to thwart the drive for independence by

stirring up local minorities, the legislators said: "The territory of the sovereign republic of Georgia is unitary and indivisible. It recognises and guarantees all basic rights and human freedoms proclaimed by international law, regardless of race, sex, language, creed, political or other convictions..."

The resolution, which cited the massive pro-independence vote in the plebiscite of March 31, was adopted exactly two years after the killing of 20 demonstrators in Tbilisi by Soviet interior ministry troops triggered a wave of nationalism. It also coincided with a growing Soviet military presence in South Ossetia, where at least 50 people have died in fighting between ethnic Ossetians, whose leaders want to remain part of the Soviet Union, and Georgian forces, which include police and militia.

At least 24 heavy armoured cars have been counted rolling into the region in the past week, after the Soviet parliament urged President Gorbachev to impose a state of emergency on South Ossetia, overruling the Georgian legislature.

Georgians accuse Soviet peacekeeping troops of helping Ossetian fighters to wage a guerrilla war, while the Ossetian leaders claim that the Soviet forces offer their community only partial protection against Georgian atrocities and economic warfare. Militia fighters on both sides use machineguns, grenade-launchers and small rockets.

The Ossetian leadership yesterday alleged that conditions were worsening in Tskhinvali, the regional capital around which Georgian forces have thrown a partial blockade, with bread production at a halt, no electricity for the last three days, limited water supplies and fears of an epidemic.

The last few days have also seen increased fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated mountainous enclave of the republic of Azerbaijan, where a three-year guerrilla war provides an insight into what could happen in South Ossetia.

In Lithuania, another republic that refuses to recognise Moscow's authority, Soviet troops yesterday took over a driving school that had been linked to the army, prompting nationalists to speculate that a new suppression could be starting.

## Moscow begins pullout

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW AND PATRICIA KOZA IN BORNESULNOVO

A HARD rain fell on the Soviet army yesterday as soldiers loaded Scud missiles on railway bogies in the first grudging troop withdrawal from Poland. General Viktor Dubynin, commander of the northern group of Soviet forces, said after taking the salute at a march past that the troops had "proudly fulfilled their international duty". Some 1,200 men will disappear in a few weeks.

General Dubynin admitted publicly for the first time that Soviet nuclear missiles had been stationed on Polish soil, though all were withdrawn 1990.

The Soviet withdrawal yesterday was part of an elaborate political game. President Walesa insists that all 52,000 Soviet troops leave by the end of the year. Moscow says only 600 should leave this year, and all will not go until the end of 1993.

Poland wants compensation for environmental damage caused by the Soviet missiles. The Borne-Sulnovo garrison poured oil from workshops into Lake Pila. Military spots were used for manoeuvres.

## Riot police await United invasion

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

TI-TERRORIST troops, by soldiers, riot police, psychologists and experts on crowd behaviour are deployed today by the Polish authorities in the big security operation since the collapse of communist rule to cope with the invasion of Warsaw by about 2,000 Manchester United fans.

The European Cup-winner's Cup match between Manchester United and Legia, the main Polish army team, is regarded as a trial of strength by the Polish authorities.

The Zomo riot police of previous communist adminis-

Football Association visited Warsaw last week to work out a strategy with the Poles. An emergency British consulate has been opened in the stadium to deal with arrested or injured fans. The Legia club has invited three Roman Catholic priests to be present.

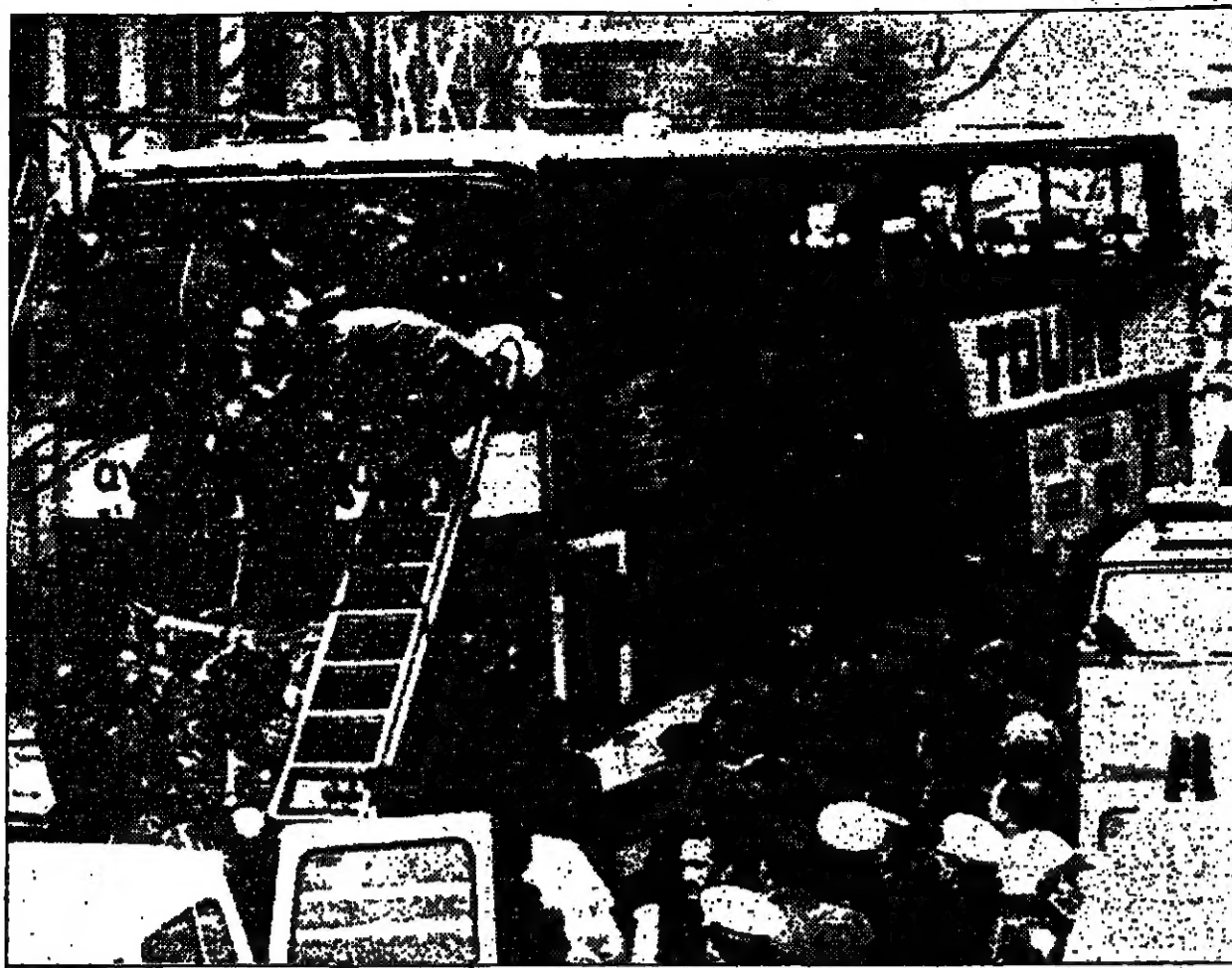
The plan is to use about 300 soldiers to act as a firebreak between the English and Polish spectators, as well as separating the potentially violent from the more placid Poles. Anti-terrorist squads will check for weapons, alcohol, bottles and matches. After kick-off they will patrol the upper terraces. Riot police will encircle the stadium and adjoining streets.

The Manchester fans - the club has an allocation of 1,500 seats - will be ordered to stay in their places for about 20 minutes after the game and then they will be escorted to their coaches. A police convoy will guard the buses as they take the fans to the airport.

However, there is a real risk of Polish fans ambushing the United supporters at some stage of their phased withdrawal. The other risk is the several hundred Manchester fans who are making their way to Poland in the hope of buying tickets outside the stadium. These fans will presumably not be in the allocated and carefully monitored seats.

The Legia skinhead fans are drawn chiefly from the sprawling, barren Warsaw housing estates where they sometimes stage territorial gang wars. One of their initiation rites is to cut off the tail of a dog and eat it raw.

Putting the boot in, page 29  
Match preview, page 40



Blame aftermath: rescue workers removing the bodies of Greek tourists from a tour bus that caught fire in Istanbul yesterday, killing at least 36 people. A travel agent who saw the vehicle burst into flames said a man had set fire to it as it was parked outside an hotel. It was just about to

leave on a sightseeing tour of the city. At least five of the 36 people killed were children, a police official said. Anna Gotsis, the manager of Agelos Tours, which organised the Easter trip, said: "A Turkish man got on the bus, poured petrol on the seats and set it on fire." She said he had been taken to

hospital with burns. Several other people wounded in the fire were also taken to three hospitals in the city. Many bodies were badly charred and hard to identify. Turkish police said they were not ruling out the possibility of sabotage but they denied that they had detained two suspects.

## French air collision kills 10 servicemen

Paris - Ten French servicemen died when a helicopter collided with a Mirage 2000 jet, during manoeuvres near Clermont-Ferrand (Philip Jacobson writes). Eight of those killed were on board the navy Lynx helicopter, and the pilot and navigator of the strike aircraft died. An enquiry has been set up into the cause of the crash, which reportedly occurred in good visibility.

### Sharia bill

Islamabad - Mian Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan prime minister, will introduce an Islamic Sharia Bill in parliament which will lead to the drafting of changes in the country's judicial, economic, educational and administrative systems, bringing them into line with traditional Islamic law.

### Manila unrest

Manila - Suspected army rebels bombed three banks and an electricity sub-station in Manila, trying to destabilise President Aquino's government. In an unrelated development, at least 13 people were killed when troops fought communist guerrillas in North Cotabato. (Reuters)

### Afghan shuffle

Islamabad - The Afghan government has dismissed Sultan Ali Kishimand, a senior vice-president, the official Bakhtar news agency reported. He was replaced by Abdul Wahid Sarobi, a junior vice-president. The dismissal had been unanimously approved by a joint session of both houses of parliament in Kabul. (Reuters)

### Prison battle

Dhaka - Four prisoners died and at least 55 others were injured when Bangladesh security forces fired on a break-out from Dhaka central jail. Paramilitary border guards quelled a rebellion by more than 1,000 inmates. More than 30 died, firing pipe guns and blasting grenades.

### Marcos trial

Los Angeles - A federal judge, Mariana Paez, set May 5, 1992, as the trial date for a Philippines government civil suit against Imelda Marcos and the estate of her late husband, Ferdinand, alleging that they looted billions of dollars. (Reuters)

### Charity show

Jakarta - About 300,000 beggars have poured into the Indonesian capital for Eid al-Fitr, the end of the Muslim fast of Ramadan, normally a time of giving alms to the poor. (Reuters)

## LIKE DAUGHTER LIKE SISTER



Jerry Knowles (below). The dark horse of the family. She started up an Action Saver Account for her. She's ended up with gross interest on her savings (Jerry's a non-taxpayer who's registered with the Inland Revenue). Now her account has a very healthy balance.

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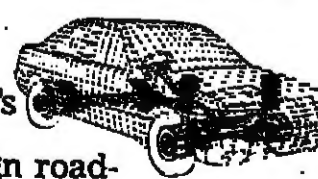
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The rear suspension, unique to Peugeot, is fully independent. This gives a far smoother ride, particularly over uneven surfaces. The absence of a fixed link between the rear wheels reduces the unsprung weight of the car, which again makes for more responsive handling.

Two horizontal torsion bars are fitted, with an anti-roll bar, to minimise roll around bends. The shock absorbers (which we design and manufacture ourselves to ensure optimum performance) are mounted horizontally rather than vertically. As well as improving the ride, this configuration gives the added benefit of extra boot space.

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The bodyshell is one of the most rigid

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As we said at the beginning, you really need to test drive the 405. Take the quick route to your local Peugeot dealer. And then take the scenic route.



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## urd stonewalls on Peking talks over Hong Kong airport

By JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG AND CATHERINE SAMSON IN PEKING

Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday that the talks over Hong Kong airport project had not reached an agreement, but the visit had been handed control of the colony to the economy to

officials of Mr Hurd remained in the hope of obtaining "agreements" on Mr Hurd's visit to Hong Kong without any differences to be ironed out or well of secrecy in the talks. It is a cynical times that stonewalling, Mr many local critics that Britain might towards a secret China that could Hong Kong's in- memories are still main's secret agree- China restricting opment of democ- Hong Kong after Mr the territory. His promises that id be consulted, but long Kong govern- the right to decide e airport should be i, were being con- sidered with his that "in practice" acquiescence was

In a further blow to confidence in Britain's handling of the talks, Mr Hurd also refused to confirm that the full details of any possible agreement in Peking would automatically be released in Hong Kong, arguing it was up to the governor, Sir David Wilson.

Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, said yesterday that Peking and Britain were still at odds over how much money would be left in Hong Kong's financial reserves when the colony is handed back to Peking in 1997.

"There is a question concerning the amount of financial reserves the Hong Kong government will leave for the Special Administrative Region in 1997", Mr Li said. "This is indeed one of our concerns." He said China was not acting out of self-interest, but in order that there should be a smooth transfer of power in 1997. He said he believed that Britain and China could reach agreement, but would not say when.

Mr Li's remarks were the first official confirmation of where exactly disagreements lie. He repeated his demands that plans for the airport be scaled down so that investment is minimal, cost-efficiency high, and the people of Hong Kong are not burdened with heavy taxes.

## defends mass killing

From Our Correspondent in Peking

The Chinese prime minister yesterday gave a speech at the army might into Peking again to are large-scale dem- a. His words ended that the govern- it be having second about the 1989 mass Tiananmen Square, hundreds, perhaps, of pro-democracy dead. dressed in a Western ed at ease during a reference until a asked him to guar- force would not be to crush peaceful

demonstrations. After a long silence, he instead defended the military action of June 4, 1989. He said the government would have fallen if the army had not been called in.

There was another awkward moment when Mr Li was asked about a poem printed in an overseas edition of the *People's Daily*. When read on the diagonal, it carried a hidden message. "Li Peng should step down in order to assuage the people's anger", Mr Li shrugged it off as a "minor incident". An investigation into the poem's publication is continuing.

## Gorbachev gives Japan a bad case protocol jitters

From Joanna Pitman in Tokyo

Japanese, who are all- ers for protocol, are pot of bother decid- entertain the most Soviet guests to visit try. President Gorb- his wife, Raisa, will Tokyo on Tuesday day trip, the first to Kremlin leader. ill attend a state the Imperial Palace rst evening, hosted or Akhito and Em- hiko and with 150 present. The num- ests is significant, ecially with the size uquet given for the n she visited Japan

anisers are appar- g careful to avoid ng an affair. It has ted that the Soviet need not wear dis- but the Japanese will be turned out e choice of music to y the meat has also blems. Palace exce- d planned, some ethnic Soviet folk t they have now is might be tactless the recent unrest in Union. They are lering some rousing



Gorbachev: has had etings cancelled

Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov instead. A special telephone link to Moscow will be installed in the palace for the evening, so that the Soviet president can be kept informed of any developments at home.

Mrs Gorbachev's itinerary is also causing concern. While she reportedly requested a meeting with Akira Kurosawa, the 80-year-old doyen of the Japanese film world, who is renowned internationally for *The Seven Samurai* and *Kagemusha*, the meeting has been cancelled, apparently because of the director's poor health.

A meeting with Takako Doi, the leader of Japan's opposition socialist party, has also been cancelled. Observers are speculating that she may no longer be leader of the socialist party by the time Mrs Gorbachev arrives, as a result of the party's disastrous performance in the recent local elections.

While her husband discusses world politics with Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, Mrs Gorbachev will be immersed in traditional Japanese culture. She is expected to attend an *ikebana* (flower-arranging class) and a performance of *kabuki*, the highly stylised 17th-century drama that most Japanese cannot follow without the aid of modern language interpretation. She may kneel through an hour-long rendition of the traditional Japanese tea ceremony, and then tour Tokyo's central fish market.

The Soviet first couple will travel in a 5.7-tonne, bomb-proof limousine and police security will be on full alert. Japanese police officers have reportedly been warned that an unknown number of KGB agents understand Japanese. The Japanese police have been told, according to one news agency, to whisper if they say something "secret or critical of the Soviet Union".

Islands demand: The Diet passed a resolution yesterday demanding the early return of four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido. The Japanese parliament urged the government to make its best efforts to win back the islands, which are known in Japan as the Northern Territories. (AFP)

The foreign secretary brushed aside as "silly" suggestions that his visit had brought China back into the international fold without gaining anything in return for Hong Kong. "China has never been out of the international fold," he said. He described as "light-headed nonsense" suggestions in London and Hong Kong that merely talking to China was "a form of surrender", arguing that continued discussions with Peking were vital to a smooth transition to Chinese rule.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Hurd visited a newly opened Vietnamese boat people camp on the remote island of Tai A Chau. After chatting to adults and children in the camp, he said that Britain was not planning immediate mandatory repatriation of place- loads of Vietnamese. However, the government was working towards an international agreement that they should go back, which would have the backing of Vietnam and the United States.



Cross-party consultations: Yang Chi-hsiung, left, of the governing Taiwanese Nationalist party, left, throws a punch at Su Pei-yuan of the opposition Democratic Progressive party, who is being restrained by other politicians in a brawl during a budget debate yesterday in the Taipei national assembly. Nationalist deputies, greatly in the majority, eventually managed to regain control in the assembly and in the legislature chamber, where there was also fighting, aided by security guards. (Renter)

## More sex assaults alleged at Mandela trial

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg

ADDITIONAL allegations of sexual misconduct at a Methodist church manse were made yesterday when the defence began to put its case in the Rand Supreme Court trial of Winnie Mandela and two other people on kidnapping and assault charges. When the trial resumed after a two-week recess, John Morgan, aged 61, declared his intention not to testify in his own defence. He is accused of

driving a minibus in which four youths were abducted from the manse and taken to Mrs Mandela's home in Soweto in December 1988. The resumption of the trial was postponed on Monday after Mr Justice M.S. Stegmann was told that Mr Morgan was ill. His place in the witness box was taken by the third accused, Xoliswa Felati, aged 36, who told Mrs Mandela of

alleged homosexual activity at the manse involving the Rev Paul Verryn and young homeless boys sent there in a rehabilitation programme initiated by the South African Council of Churches. She said that Stompie Mokheisi Seipei, aged 14, later murdered by Jerry Richardson, the leader of Mrs Mandela's former bodyguard, was sexually harassed by other boys. She told the court that

she tried to comfort him after he complained that three boys had stroked his thighs and buttocks while they were in bed together. He threatened to sleep with a knife to keep them away, she said. The prosecution claims that Stompie and three others were taken from the manse to Mrs Mandela's home where she allegedly took part in assaulting them.

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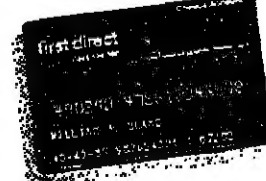
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# Mixed reception for Baker peace mission in Israel

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, embarks on the second leg of his Middle East peace mission today after his proposal for a regional conference was greeted yesterday with mixed reactions by Israeli leaders and Palestinian representatives.

Mr Baker received an enthusiastic welcome from David Levy, the foreign minister, who said that after 90 minutes of talks they had reached understandings that might provide the "cornerstone" of a new peace process in the region.

However, Mr Baker appeared to cut short his Israeli counterpart's upbeat evaluation of their meeting and interjected that nothing concrete had been decided. "I agree that we have had a productive and very constructive meeting this morning and I don't wish to diminish that in any way by saying that there is a long, long way to go... so I hope that there is no rush to judgment here," he said. Mr Baker kept details of his

various meetings confidential. The proposals envisage a conference attended by the key Arab states, a Palestinian representative and Israel, to agree on a solution to the Palestinian question and to negotiate a peace agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours, guaranteed by the superpowers.

However, as the six-man Palestinian delegation which met Mr Baker for two hours yesterday made clear, the Palestinians are concerned that their interests could be compromised in the interests of a broader peace settlement. Faisal al-Husseini, the delegation leader, said: "The envisaged peace process is fraught with further perils if the 'twin track' approach, as articulated by US officials, becomes one of misplaced priorities and asynchrony."

The Israeli leaders who met Mr Baker, including Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, Moshe Arens, the defence minister and Mr Levy, raised concerns that once negotia-

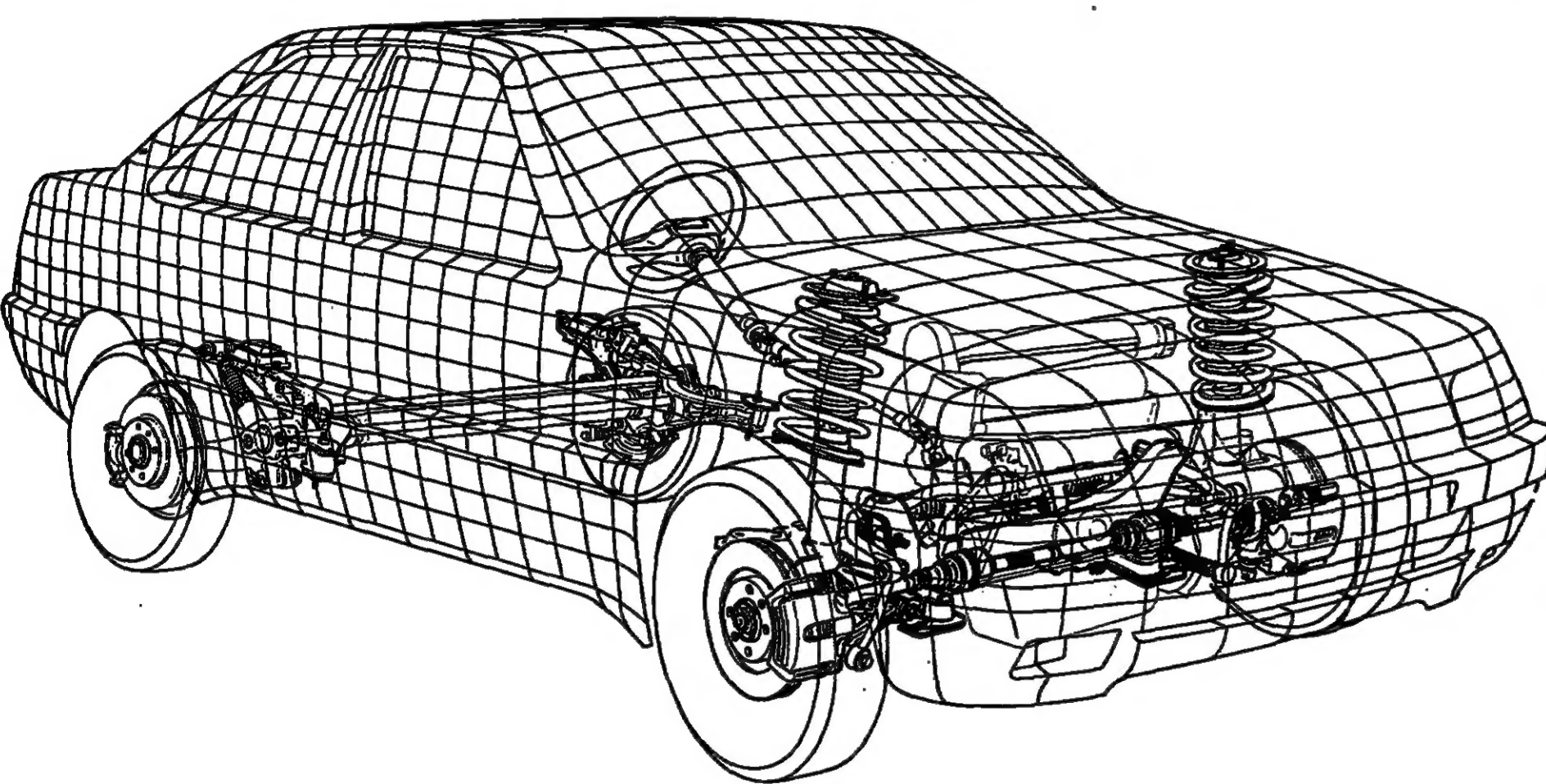
tions begin Israel may find itself forced into an agreement to relinquish land for peace, a concept opposed by the right-wing government which favours direct and individual talks with each Arab country.

Mr Shamir, in particular, is acutely aware of the dangers he faces from right-wing members of his own party if he proceeds further on the road to a compromise with the Arabs. He came under attack yesterday from several leading Likud figures for his offer to release more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and his promise to improve economic and social conditions in the occupied territories, particularly the Gaza Strip. Ariel Sharon, the housing minister and one of the most vocal opponents of any concessions, denounced the suggestion of dialogue with the Palestinians.

However, in the turbulent world of Middle Eastern diplomacy, Mr Baker can be thankful his initiative remains largely intact.



Blow for freedom: Jews, originally from Kurdistan, demonstrating their support for the plight of the Kurds outside the office of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, in Jerusalem yesterday. The protest was timed to coincide with the visit by James Baker, the American Secretary of State.



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## West's 'double standards' arouse Arab suspicion

By DAVID WATTS

MUCH of the Arab world sees the plan to establish a safe haven for the Kurds as either a sinister scheme to dismember an "Arab superpower" or an aspirin to treat appendicitis.

The immediate human problem is obvious, and many Arab spokesmen see the need for a solution. But the Anglo-American scheme for intervention on behalf of the Kurdish minority stirs too many memories for comfort.

Furthermore, as with so many such Western concerns in the Middle East, those Arabs willing even to talk about it point out that Western interest tends to be selective. "The Arabs feel there are double standards, as the Israelis have been killing the Palestinians step by step. There are lots of United Nations resolutions to protect the Palestinians and nothing has happened," Dr Omar al-Hassan, director of the Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies, said.

The haven approach was definitely not acceptable, he added, but neither was President Saddam Hussein's treatment of the Kurds. What was now becoming a possibility was the dismemberment of Iraq and its destruction as an Arab superpower.

"It is very clear that they [the West] want to destroy the power of Iraq and now they have succeeded. The West doesn't want to see a Shia regime in power. They want to replace the devil with the devil so its better to keep

Saddam for the time being. After a while he will be replaced by a general."

Bahrain's ambassador in Shaker, warned against dismemberment of Iraq, saying that Bahrain would pose any step which might harm the country's territorial integrity. The silk of land in Gaza, Palestinians had not their problem and helped them in their search for a homeland, he said.

A leading figure in opposition warned that West was continuing the symptoms rather than the cause. "The hospital just give aspirin, they eliminate the cause fever. What the West is remove the cause of Saddam," Dr Sahib al-Sayid, secretary-general of the Organisation of Human Rights in Iraq, said.

But, if the West is to protect the Kurds, it would be an immediate protection of the Shia of the south. The Americans can't that they are unable to fire in the internal Iraq when they are occupying 15 per cent area of the country."

Dr al-Hakim, a Shia, added: "What they have is open up the abdomen, out the whole appendix then make a suture."

## America anxious to take back seat over refugee plan

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BUSH administration officials said yesterday that America was ready to support John Major's idea for some sort of UN-protected haven for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq but wanted others to take the lead in promoting it.

Washington acknowledges the gravity of the refugee problem but does not want to take a prominent role in proposing solutions that would interfere with Iraq's internal affairs, might necessitate the use of force, and could lead, at least temporarily, to the fragmentation of Iraq that the administration has sought to avoid.

"If the UN or someone else establishes that a haven is necessary, there's not quite the same stigma attached," one official said. Another said that the administration wanted an international solution.

The administration's public comments on the haven idea have been very guarded. President Bush said on Sunday that the enormity of the refugee problem meant it had become a matter for the UN. He failed, however, to specify what action he thought the organisation should take.

Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, said the idea would have to go through the security council. Thomas Pickering, the US ambassador to the UN, said it was one that "matches our hopes".

America is openly hostile to the creation of a haven for displaced Iraqis in so Iraq, but that would be a six-mile-wide demilitarised zone on the Kuwaiti border which Baghdad has agreed in terms of the ceasefire.

The withdrawal of US troops in southern Iraq began in earnest on Monday and could be completed by the end of the month if it monitoring force has fully deployed. The US tends that up to 40,000 who have sought refuge in President Saddam. His forces behind US lines is be looked after by the Cross and the UN programme in the demilitarised zone, but the UN would have no actual power to protect them there.

Les Aspin, chairman of the House armed services committee, yesterday backed the idea of protective sanctuaries for the Kurds and said that could justifiably interfere with Iraq's internal affairs because of Saddam's "abominable" behaviour. The aim was a Kurdish community was part of Iraq but a lot autonomous than before. US transport planes continuing the relief of the Kurds began on Sunday. Monday night they dropped nearly 90 tonnes of supplies over northern Iraq.

## Pérez de Arsuaga envoy to

Spain's Foreign Minister, Carlos Arsuaga, has announced that he will send an envoy to the Basque Country to investigate the situation there. The Basque Country is a region in northern Spain that has been the scene of a long-running separatist movement. Arsuaga's move is seen as a sign of the Spanish government's commitment to resolving the conflict peacefully.

## Europe of enclosure

A high-level European Commission delegation is expected to visit the Basque Country in the coming weeks. The delegation will be led by the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, and will aim to assess the impact of the Basque conflict on the region's economy and social conditions. The visit is part of the EU's efforts to support the Basque people and promote reconciliation.



United States Youth Against Nuclear Arms (YAN) protesters in Washington, DC, last week. The group is part of a larger movement against nuclear weapons.

## UN resolution

The United Nations Security Council has passed a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Basque Country. The resolution also calls for the withdrawal of all armed forces from the region and for the establishment of a neutral zone. The UN's move is seen as a significant step towards resolving the conflict.

The resolution is a landmark decision for the Basque people, who have long sought recognition and self-determination. It also sends a strong message to the international community that the use of force is not a viable solution to the conflict. The UN's efforts are seen as a model for other conflict zones around the world.



**KURDS**  
The current crisis has caused Kurds from Iraq to flee to Turkey. In 30,000 Iraqi Kurds entered Iraq, 771,860 Iraqi Kurds entered Iraq, 400,000 fled to Turkey.

**SOVIET JEW**  
Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel since 1989 while 15,000 Ethiopian Jews arrived in Israel since the war Operation Moses in 1984. In 1987, 10,000.

**PALESTINE**  
United Nations Relief and Works has registered 2.3 million as refugees since the creation of the state of Israel. In 1948, 750,000 Palestinians were displaced when Israel annexed the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights in 1967.

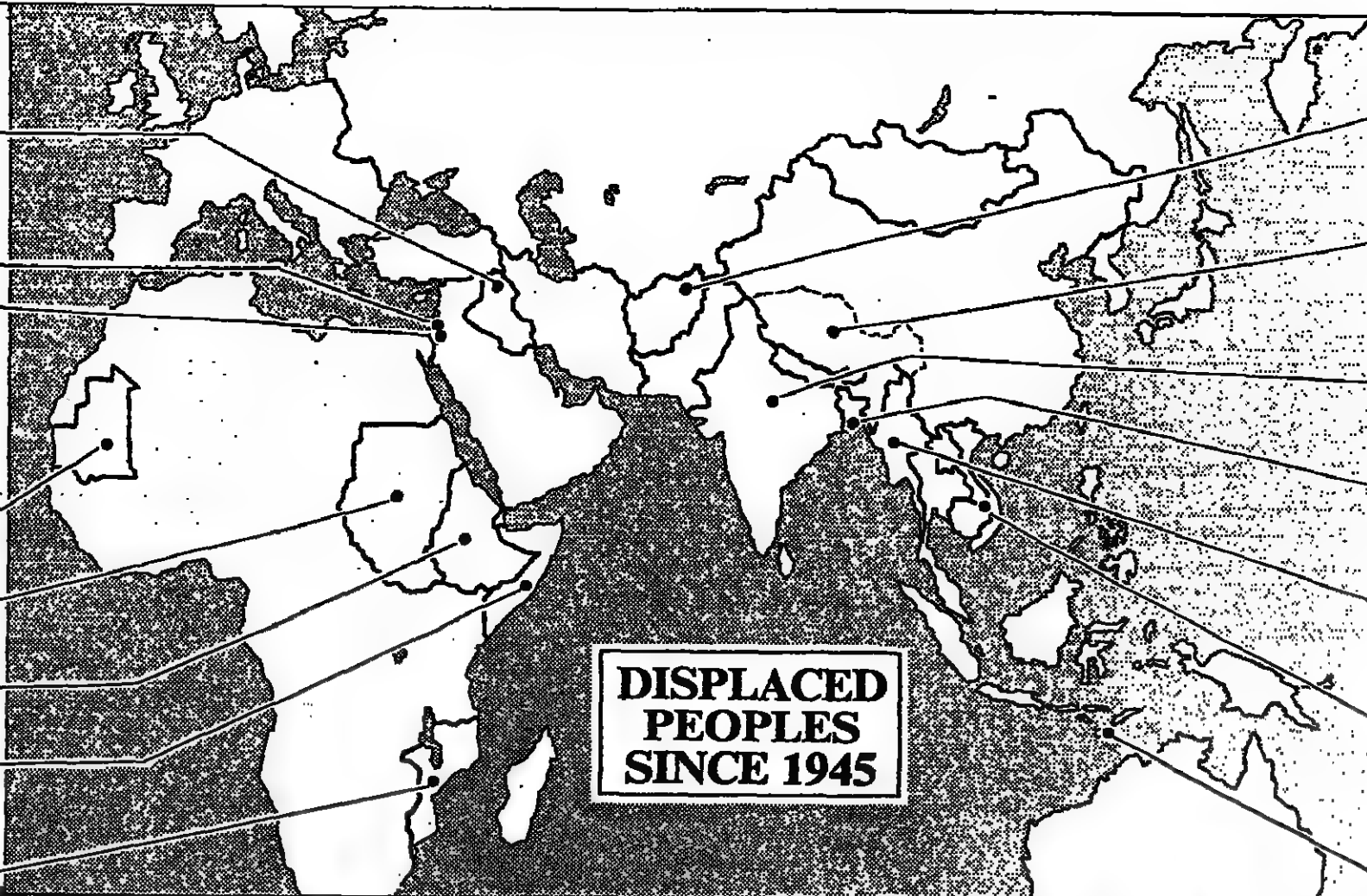
**REFUGEES**  
refugees fled for Senegal in 1989 from disturbances.

**REFUGEES**  
figures: 800,000 refugees, mainly from Ethiopia and Chad.

**REFUGEES**  
figures: 845,000 refugees. About 1 million in Sudan and half from Somalia.

**REFUGEES**  
figures: 840,000 refugees, mainly from Ethiopia.

**REFUGEES**  
more than one million refugees fled to South Africa and Zambia during the war. 4.3m people threatened by war.



# DISPLACED PEOPLES SINCE 1945

**AFGHANISTAN**  
Since 1978, 3.3 million Afghans have fled to Pakistan while 2.35 million have gone to Iran.

**TIBET**  
1.2 million believed killed since China invaded in 1949. 120,000 have since fled and the Dalai Lama now heads government-in-exile in northern India.

**INDIA**  
When it was partitioned in 1947 twelve million Hindus and Muslims fled across the borders of the Punjab and Bengal to escape from, or into, West and East Pakistan and India.

**BANGLADESH**  
Nine and a half million refugees fled East Pakistan in the 1971 civil war before it broke from Pakistan to form Bangladesh.

**BURMA**  
By 1980, 40,000 refugees from the ethnically-based insurgency group, the Karen National Union, housed in camps in Thailand.

**VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA**  
After the war 2.2 million refugees fled to Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Indonesia. 1.6 million have now been resettled in 30 countries.

**EAST TIMOR**  
Up to 200,000 people believed killed in the former Portuguese colony, after Indonesia invaded in December 1975. People killed in battle, others died in concentration camps while others killed by epidemics caused by the war.

## Pérez de Cuéllar names his envoy to see Kurds' plight

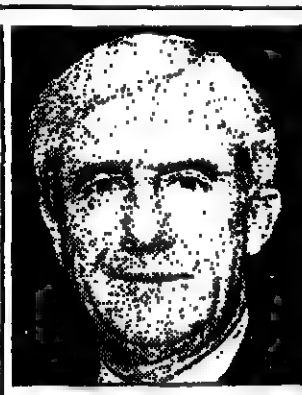
FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations secretary-general named a Belgian official yesterday as his special envoy to investigate the plight of the Kurds, and said he hoped Iraq would allow UN assistance. British diplomats are pinning their hopes of establishing a sanctuary for the Kurds on the UN secretary's mission.

A UN spokesman announced that Eric Suy, an adviser to the Belgian foreign minister who once headed the UN office in Geneva, would leave Brussels today, stop in Geneva and then travel to Iraq. The spokesman did not say how he would enter Iraq, but insisted that he would do so with Baghdad's permission.

Iraq has said it is ready to accept the UN fact-finding team, as called for in last week's security council resolution on the Kurds, although it rejects the creation of a UN buffer zone to protect the Kurdish population. While expressing concern that Iraq had ruled out the zone, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the secretary-general, said he still hoped Iraq would let the UN help the Kurds in the north and the Shias in the south. "I think that in the end the Iraqis will understand that it is even in their interest to have these people protected," he said. Mr Suy was the third person approached by the secretary-general.

British diplomats continued lobbying other security council members yesterday to support John Major's proposal for a UN sanctuary for the Kurds. Sir David Hannay called on the secretary-general to press the prime minister's plan. The British delegation hopes that the envoy will win Baghdad's agreement for a UN civilian Iraq to help the Kurds.



Poes: Iraqi attacks on Kurds "intolerable"  
**Poes urges overthrow**

Luxembourg - President Sadam Hussein must be overthrown if Iraq's army is to be stopped from slaughtering the Kurdish population, Jacques Poes, the Luxembourg foreign minister, said yesterday. "These attacks are intolerable... we need a new UN resolution to empower the allied forces to do something against it," he said in a television interview. "The right solution is the overthrow [of Saddam] in Iraq which makes it possible for these people to return to their cities and villages."

## Baghdad rejects Major proposal for safety zone

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ yesterday rejected John Major's proposal to set up a United Nations sanctuary for Kurdish refugees in the north of the country and vowed to resist it by all means, hinting at the use of force if necessary.

Saddam Hammadi, the Iraqi prime minister, described the idea of a safe zone as a "suspicious proposal" and accused the West of exaggerating the scale of the refugee problem. "It is another circle of plots against Iraq and its sovereignty," he told the Iraqi news agency.

The veiled threat raised the possibility of renewed fighting between allied and Iraqi forces and underscored Britain's insistence that any United Nations presence in northern Iraq will have to be equipped and prepared to use force. Mr Hammadi lashed out at Iran and Turkey, warning them against interference in another country's internal affairs - a "double-edged sword".

He insisted Iraq had already taken steps to solve the refugee problem. Many had accepted Baghdad's offer last week of an amnesty and the authorities were transporting them back to their homes, he said. Iraq had "established security and the authority of law throughout the country including the north". Kurdish rebels say government forces are still attacking defenceless convoys of refugees as part of a deliberate campaign to rid Iraq of its Kurdish population.

## Europe basks in glow of enclave initiative

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

AS A high-level European delegation flies to Washington today, the European Community is digesting the implications of John Major's initiative to create safe havens for the Kurds of Iraq.

The political and military problems of making the proposal a reality will be fought out at the United Nations in New York. But most of Britain's European partners also saw significance in Mr Major choosing to launch his idea at a European summit.

Both Mr Major and his spokesmen were careful to point out that the creation of a United Nations enclave in Iraq had not been discussed beforehand with the Americans - although it was an expansion of suggestions floated last weekend both by Washington and by President Ozal of Turkey.

"This was not pre-cooked at all with the Americans," said one British official. President Mitterrand's spokesman said that France - which had been actively consulted beforehand - appreciated Mr Major presenting his plan to European leaders. President Mitterrand himself said afterwards that the decisions on humanitarian aid and on supporting safe havens for the Kurds were a "major advance for the political dimension of the community".

The defence and foreign policy dimension of the community - confined so far to the drawing board - will be the main topic when Jacques Delors, the commission president, and Jacques Santer, the current council president, meet American officials, including President Bush, in Washington tomorrow.

The American administration is opposed to any weakening of its influence in Nato which might be caused by the creation of a European army, but Washington has always supported European integration.

Whether or not Monday's summit took the EC any further, it was definitely an advance for Mr Major's marketing campaign for Britain in the community. He sprung a genuine surprise, carried his presentation off in a thoroughly commendable fashion and dictated the day's agenda. One of the beauties of the prime minister's "four-point plan" as a "European initiative" is that it is essentially an action plan for the UN, where the tricky problems of implementation have to be tackled.



United front: Yasser Arafat, right, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, shaking hands with Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, during talks in Tripoli. Mr Arafat told the BBC in an interview yesterday that the PLO was ready to talk to "our enemy, the Israeli government, under the United Nations flag".

United Nations forces have been embroiled in a variety of wars and communal conflicts around the world, but the organisation has never yet sent military personnel to establish a safe haven in a country's territory. Often, as in Cyprus or Lebanon, it is difficult to say that such involvement does not amount to interference in a country's internal affairs.

The UN Charter allows such intervention only when it is necessary as part of enforcement action to maintain international peace. Past military operations, excluding the UN-approved wars in Korea in 1950 and in the Gulf this year, have been:

1948 to date: UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). Created to supervise the truce after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, UNTSO has changed with the times, but about 300 observers remain in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria. 1949 to date: UN military observer group in India and

Pakistan. Observers helped monitor the ceasefire line in Kashmir agreed between India and Pakistan in 1949. 1956-67: UN emergency force. After Britain and France intervened in Suez, Canada proposed deployment of a peacekeeping force to facilitate their withdrawal. 1958: UN observers in Lebanon, which plunged into civil war when President Chamoun, a Maronite Christian, announced he would amend the constitution to serve another term. Observers were sent to ensure that Syria did not infiltrate arms and personnel into Lebanon to support the rebellion. 1960-4: The Congo: the largest, most controversial peacekeeping operation in UN history. About 20,000 personnel were involved in the

turmoil of a mutiny soon after the Congo became independent from Belgium. Dag Hammarskjöld, the then secretary-general, died in a plane crash on a mission to the country. 1962-3: Temporary executive authority and security force in West New Guinea. The UN took over from Britain, claimed both by Indonesia and The Netherlands, when it became independent from Dutch rule. The territory was then transferred to Indonesia. 1963-4: Yemen observation mission. At the initiative of U Thant, the then secretary-general, observers were sent to prevent interference by Saudi Arabia and Egypt in the Yemeni civil war. 1964 to date: Peacekeeping force in Cyprus. A force was sent after fighting between Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriot minority, and remained there to monitor the "green line" separating the communities after Turkey invaded the northern half of the island in 1974. 1965-66: Representative of the secretary-general in the Dominican Republic. The security council appointed a special envoy to report on the civil war on the Caribbean island between two groups of army officers. The envoy helped arrange a ceasefire. 1965-6: India-Pakistan observation mission. Observers were sent to the India-Pakistan border to supplement the ceasefire after fighting between the two countries. 1973-9: Second UN emergency force. Proposed by the non-aligned nations to oversee the ceasefire on the Egyptian front at the end of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. 1974 to date: UN disengagement observer force. A 1,250-strong force was sent to monitor the disengagement of

## UN resolution opens way for military action

International law provides the basis for armed intervention in Iraq by individual states to save the Kurds from genocide should the UN fail to do so, Marc Weller argues

United Nations Security Council determined last Friday that circumstances prevailing in Iraq constituted a threat to international peace and security. This finding, made in resolution 688, empowers the council to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of that state.

UN has had to achieve this in a roundabout way. The council explicitly condemned the repression of Kurds, it has also insisted that access be granted to humanitarian organisations. If international agencies are to operate within Iraq, they may well require protection from the vicissitudes of civil unrest. This could be achieved by establishing zones of humanitarian assistance under UN authority.

As the aim of the operation is to stem the tide of refugees, it would not necessarily suffice to establish a sanctuary at the end of their trek, along Iraq's northern border with Turkey. Kurdish population centres might be placed under protection, too. However, these would not be enclaves. Iraq would continue to be sovereign. It would only be required to limit the exercise of its executive authority in those areas to permit implementation of the international aid effort upon which the UN has insisted in a

binding resolution. Baghdad has now asserted that its campaign against the Kurds has ended, and it has offered them a safe return. It is unlikely that such a return could be effected without the establishment of sanctuaries, or at least the presence of UN observers.

In order to force the Iraqi government to co-operate, the council can threaten the renewed imposition of sanctions, despite ceasefire resolution 687 which has been accepted by Iraq and which provides for a gradual lifting of the economic embargo. And if there is enough political will, then military force could be employed by the UN, unlikely though that is.

If the council fails to take further action, then individual states may step in. The members of the European Community have decided to keep economic sanctions. Although the mandate of the international coalition to restore international peace and security to the area has expired with the acceptance of the ceasefire resolution, forcible measures might not be excluded.

Arguably, resolution 688 gives states the right to ensure the implementation of the humanitarian aid programme by military means. And if there are circumstances of imminent and overwhelming necessity, then international law provides the basis for military action to save the Kurds from genocide.

The author is a research fellow in international law at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and at the Research Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge

## West's water standards Arab suspects

President Ozal has indicated a country to Israel, to the Jordanian areas of the Golan Heights, the Israeli opposition party, said yesterday. "We are visiting friends to address our mutual business and Middle East issues," he said. "He [Ozal] is ready to create a water pipeline... war in the Middle East will be over water, and Turkey is in the region with us." (Reuters)

**clear**  
Iraqi - Kuwait's three oil ports, Dohuk, and Shuwaib, will be safe from mines planted by British, and Australian tanks (Michael Niles). But extensive mine to land installations still has to be cleared.

**ur warning**  
Labour yesterday the prime minister for safe haven for refugees in Iraq must be the creation of Jaza Strip (Nicholas Niles). The intervention Kinnock and Roy qualified the opposition backing for or's scheme.

**y expelled**  
Germany has decided an unnamed Iraqi for the illegal import of a Soviet-made anti-aircraft missile. The German government said the missile was brought in by a Kurd who had been expelled from the country. (Reuters)

**ig aid**  
China is considering aid to Iraqi refugees, the Chinese minister, said. "We are considering giving aid to refugees," he told conference, but the indication of how it might be sent, or would go. (Reuters)

**America and to take back over refugee**  
The US has a plan to take back over the refugee problem in Iraq. The plan involves the US taking over the refugee problem in Iraq. The plan involves the US taking over the refugee problem in Iraq. (Reuters)



# Growing up on the front line

Vincent Stott, at 17 the youngest British soldier in the Gulf, has come home. What is his legacy of war? Joan Simpson reports

Fear, a 17-year-old soldier reflects, is "something I have looked at, and nothing much will ever worry me again". Private Vincent Stott is home from the war. Vivid in his memory, in the place where teenage lads on civvy street might relish a match-winning goal or a cricket triumph, is the din of battle and the images of destruction and death on the front line of the Gulf war.

Pte Stott is a reluctant witness in recalling the events which have hastened his maturity. He shrugs off the fame that was thrust upon him by dint of his being the youngest British soldier at the front line in the Gulf. "It's just my job. I was only doing what I'm trained for."

He endured rather than enjoyed the attention that followed the appearance throughout the national press of his photograph — his youthful face set firm beneath a seemingly too-large helmet — an image which fuelled protests demanding that such very young men should be removed from the front line.



Vincent Stott in the Gulf

The argument ran that, because soldiers under the age of 18 are not allowed to serve in Northern Ireland, they should not be sent to a war by politicians whom they are not old enough to vote in or out of office. The age limit for Ireland is deemed necessary because of the more complicated decisions which may face young soldiers as they patrol the streets around people's homes, facing an unseen enemy.

Pte Stott stonily dismisses the arguments of those who thought to shield him from the desert war. His father, Tom, a former member of the Royal Scots in which his son now serves, proudly backs him up. "Should I worry more about my son when he is 17 than when he is 18?"

Pte Stott was one of a handful of 17-year-olds serving in the First Battalion, the Royal Scots. These lads — as Scottish soldiers are known — were tagged by a headline writer as the "Young Lions". Now, back home with their families in Edinburgh, they all say that going to war is simply what they were trained for, what they expect to have to do. "People should have been worrying about the married guys, the

ones with kids," Pte Stott says. Gordon Quate and Steven Morris have both turned 18 since the end of the war but were aware, via their worried mothers' letters, of the fears for them. "We were trained the same as anybody else," Pte Quate says. Had they been asked, and the Young Lions are unanimous on this, they would not have wished anyone to fight their battles for them, nor to take them out of the front line.

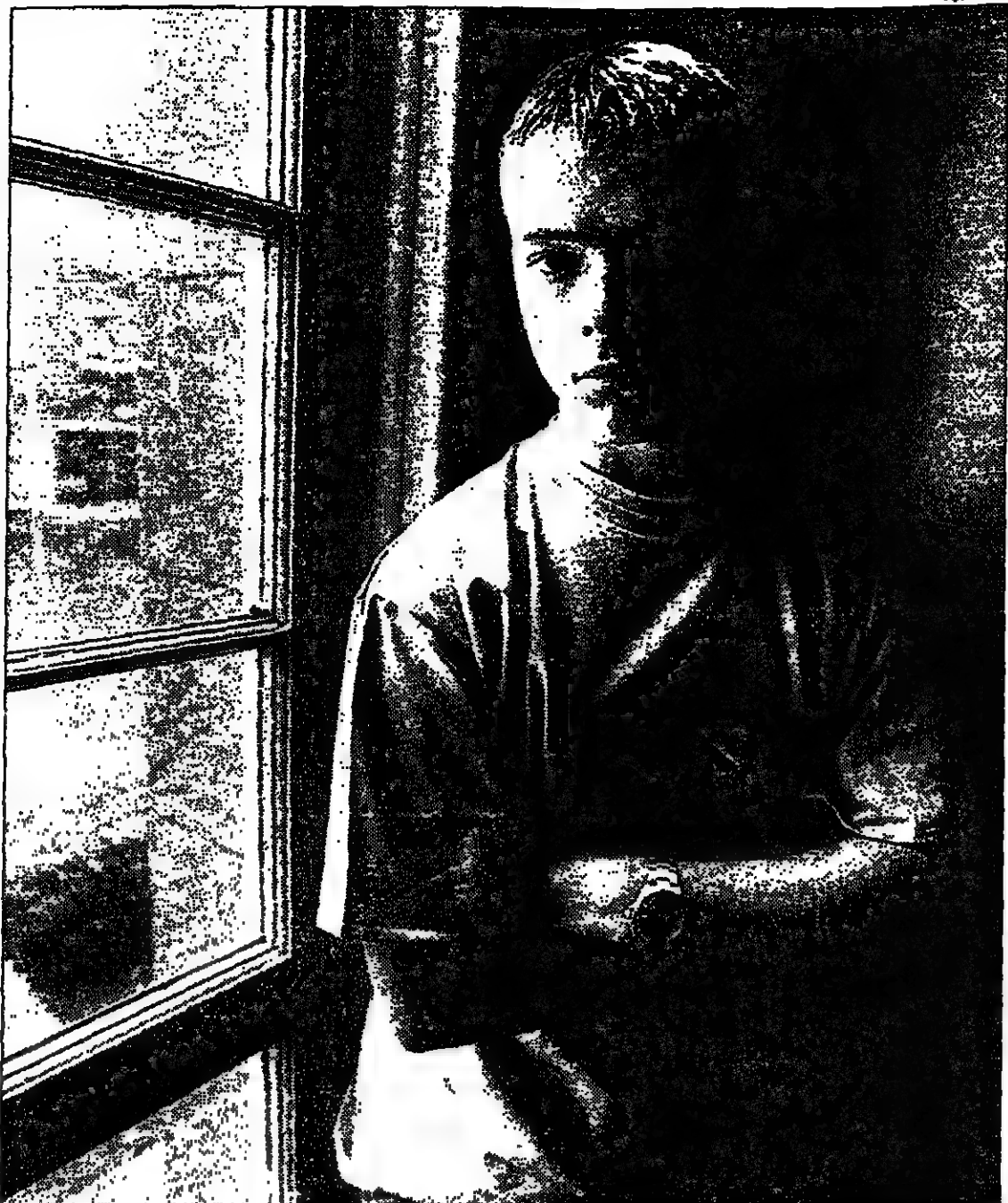
Their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Iain Johnstone, says: "They grew to such stature and reached such dizzy heights. As far as I am concerned if they are good enough to be a Royal Scot they were good enough to go to the Gulf. None of them acted like little boys, they had done all their training, they were fit, motivated and very professional and carried out their job as I would expect any Royal Scot to do. Their age did not worry me in the slightest, I had no qualms."

The young soldiers were scarcely out of their training at the end of last year when rumours of a Gulf deployment circulating at their barracks in Werh, near Düsseldorf, in Germany, were confirmed at a muster on the parade ground. "I was hoping it was true," Pte Stott says. "When we were told definitely I think everyone was excited, really looking forward to it."

"We were prepared for heavy casualties but you tried not to think about it, your mates and all that. Sometimes you thought about yourself and what might happen and got a bit depressed but most of the time you were too busy."

When orders came for the ground attack — "yes, at the time it was very frightening. It was pitch black most of the time and there was a sort of mist in the sky and when it rained it was pure blackness, then suddenly the sky would go completely orange."

"But guys don't talk about fear, everybody was frightened, you know what the other guys are thinking but you just bottle it up. There's a lot of tension, pent-up aggression among everybody, sometimes we would be fighting among ourselves, quarrelling about stupid things, but you know these guys are going to be your mates for life."



Back at home: Vincent Stott feels more comfortable with army friends who have shared his experiences

During the ground war the Royal Scots were in the thick of the action, cutting a 250-kilometre swathe through Iraq and Kuwait and taking part in ten major assaults.

They took prisoners as they went and it is ironic that what shocked Pte Quate was that "some of the Iraqis were really quite old — three of the ones we took were over 50, they were ragged and had only some crusts of bread. But you could not feel sorry for them, they were still the enemy."

The tremendous noise of battle — artillery shells exploding around, the ground shuddering under the

constant barrage, the skies cracking with the aerial bombardment — prevented conversation in the back of the Warrior armed personnel carriers, the "wagons" carrying the Royal Scots into the battle lines.

Pte Morris, asked if he had been afraid, unhesitatingly admitted: "Oh yes." Maturity wrested from experience brings its own level of honesty.

Pte Morris believes he has grown up. "I feel more mature, more confident. If there is a tour in Northern Ireland, I feel better about that. And I have made friendships in the battalion that will last, definitely."

Pte Morris has not yet "got

around to" seeing his old school-friends, years behind him now in experience of life. Pte Quate has been out for a drink with old school pals but felt "older than them and I didn't like to talk too much about what I had done."

Pte Stott, too, has stuck with army friends. His father says he has changed, become more grown-up and more cynical. Pte Stott gives a rare, brilliant grin of agreement. In what way does he feel he has changed? "I have faced the war, learnt as a soldier. Yes, I have learnt to control fear."

## Nanny does n know best

Why some working mothers prefer childcare with a less formal face

Working women who can afford the deluxe answer to childcare — the nanny with a National Nursery Examination Board (NNEB) qualification — appear to have the ideal solution. According to *Maternity Rights: The Experience of Women and Employers, First Findings*, a report by the Policy Studies Institute, most employers still offer few childcare facilities, or none at all — despite the striking increase in the number of women who return to work after having a baby.

But does the training nannies receive equip them to satisfy a modern parent? As more women — and men — become increasingly knowledgeable about pregnancy and childbirth, they perceive themselves to be less helpless on matters of childcare. Their choice of childcare revolves less around formal training than whether they like the person they are employing.

"I regard first aid training as absolutely essential, but otherwise I am interested in her personality and what she does in her spare time, not in any qualifications," says Jill Silver, a management consultant whose ten-month-old son, Max, is cared for by an experienced but untrained New Zealand nurse.

"We find that people now lay most stress on personality," says Isy Blanchard, of the Nanny Service agency in London. "Most people want someone who is easygoing and able to muck in with the family. It doesn't go down very well if, when something gets knocked over, the nanny reaches out for the NNEB regulations on whose responsibility it is to clear it up, instead of getting on with it."

The NNEB diploma course — the MBA of the nanny world — takes two years and covers the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of children from birth to the age of seven. Students spend 40 per cent of their time with children, and the rest at college. As well as a practical assessment, there are two written papers, but no oral

examination. "We believe is covered by the practical assessments," says Janis Matthews, the director of the NNEB.

While most mothers that a professional nanny exactly what they want, they object to a formal adherence to a formula. "I thought I should have an NNEB nanny if possible," says Jenny Peters, a servant with a nine-month-old son, David, "but in real life it was so inconvenient, so keen to house running efficient the baby crawling early, I felt his emotional needs being overlooked." Di now looked after by an ened an pair.

The Policy Studies Institute survey a that many mothers still depend on members of their family look after babies while work, and perhaps this is often taken of necessity, new ideas.

Nicky Lee, a textile designer whose mother gave part-time teaching job after ten-week-old Oscar, two days a week, says can't pay someone to a same way. There is an itive love there. My mother, more over-pro than I might be, but we fundamental conflicts my daughter's upbringing, though it is a lot of work, mother it is a second cha look after a baby. I was he child."

"My mother was sent boarding school from an early age and always had suffered badly from says Peggy Prendiville interior designer. Ms. Pville's daughter, Isobel, 21 months, is looked twice a week by her mother, Ross Branson, thought it would be nice involved." Ms. Prendiville says: "If she disagreed everything it wouldn't w, but we both respect the we do things."

KAY MAR

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Caring: Ross Branson, Peggy Prendiville and baby Isobel



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### Brought to book

NOW that Directory Enquiries is no longer a free service, have you asked for all the telephone directories to which you are entitled? British Telecom has made it a policy — although not a highly publicised one — to send subscribers who request them any and all directories from adjoining areas. Simply dial 100 and ask for "FreePhone Phone Books" and make your request.

And while on the subject of telecommunications, subscribers to Mercury have to suffer loud, screaming beeps before and after they dial a number. People who complain about the irritating high tones — or wonder whether they have some long-term effect on hearing — are informed that "we had to have the loud tones so people could be certain that their calls were being put through on Mercury". But will more customers be put off by the screeches when there are more rivals to British Telecom?

### Stop faking it

STROLLERS along South Molton Street, London, should not be afraid to drop into the jeweller André Bogaert. He urges people not to "fall for fake" gold, because real gold (particularly if plated on to silver, or combined with it) can be reasonable. Bogaert uses all carats and colours of gold, and combines gold with silver in his less expensive designs. Distinctive "letter brooches" are £145, earrings start at about £100 and Bogaert has introduced accessories such as leather



Bogaert's gold on silver wave bangle and earrings belts with sculpted silver buckles (from £195). André Bogaert is at 5 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DH (071-493 4869).

### Going with the grain

COFFEE addicts who cannot stand the taste of decaffeinated substitutes and some of the more exotic health food shop alternatives may find the new, improved, granulated Caro — a blend of roasted grains — more palatable than most. Although it lacks the "hit" of real coffee, it also lacks any of the more objectionable flavours of many caffeine-free substitutes. Caro costs about £2.20 for an 8oz jar from health food shops.

### Fashion fair

SOME of the country's top fashion designers will be converging on the Corn Exchange in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, next Thursday for a charity fashion show in aid of the Spastics Society and a local church appeal. Clothes shown, for men, women and children, will include those by Bruce Oldfield, Jean Muir, Caro-

line Charles and Nicole Farhi, as well as ranges from high street labels such as Alexon, Eastex and Dash. Fuller figures will be catered for by Exelle and Extra Style. There will also be make-up, hair, and fitness demonstrations during the evening. Tickets are £10 each and include a glass of wine. Details from Heather Tilbury Associates (071-224 3882).

### Sea green T-shirts

GREENPEACE has joined forces with the fashion chain Monsoon to produce an attractive "Viva Dolphin" T-shirt, available from Monsoon shops around the country for £9.95. Last year's "Viva Elephant" T-shirt raised more than £8,000 for Elefriends. A children's version is £7.95.

VICTORIA MCKEE

**'A SUPERB MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT'**  
Daily Mail

**OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II'S**

**Carmen Jones**

**'OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN'S DECISION TO UPDATE BIZET'S OPERA WAS TRULY INSPIRED'**  
Daily Express

**'WILHELMENIA FERNANDEZ'S CARMEN SWOOPS BOLDLY UP AND DOWN THE MUSICAL SCALE EXUDING A SEXUALITY WHICH SEEMS ENTIRELY EFFORTLESS'**

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## COMIC OPERA

# Too little bold and witty are we

Traditional or gimmick-laden, most modern productions of Gilbert and Sullivan underplay their original, savage satirical edge. Benedict Nightingale has a little list of observations

In his own day W.S. Gilbert got up many noses, including the royal one. Was Victoria vaguely aware of some kinship with the Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe*, who is as infatuated with Private Willis as she was with Gillie Brown? Probably not. But she could hardly miss such impertinences as the ending of *The Pirates of Penzance*, in which cowardly and inept policemen persuade the villains to lay down their arms by chanting her name at them.

When *The Gondoliers* was played at Windsor, Gilbert's name was omitted from the same programme on which the company wigmaker's was printed in bold type. He had to wait for his knighthood until six years after the Queen's death, a quarter of a century longer than Sullivan.

That did not trouble him, since he regarded the honour as a "tip-top, twopenny-halfpenny distinction", created to slake the vanity of the political sycophants and moneyed oafs he enjoyed parodying. But it was an omen of sadder times to come. There are, after all, many ways of stifling a satirist.

One of these ways had been perfected by D'Oyly Carte well before the company's collapse in 1982: that was to institutionalise Gilbert and Sullivan's operas as anodyne entertainments for audiences interested only in nice tunes, clever rhymes and whimsical stories. Another way has never been better illustrated than by the *Gondoliers*, that the resuscitated D'Oyly Carte company is presenting at Sadler's Wells: that is to package the operas so gaudily that nobody can see the contents for the wrapping paper.

Joseph Papp and Wilford

Leach did little for Gilbert when they transformed *The Pirates* into a splashy Broadway musical a decade ago, but their production was sensitivity itself compared with the vandalism at Sadler's Wells. The original Duke of Plaza-Toro, for instance, is a seedy snob who has become a limited company. He organises knight-hoods for dim aldermen, speaks at charity dinners for ten per cent of the take, gives credibility to shady firms by sitting on their boards, and, like many aristocrats in and after the 1890s, has gainfully sold off his daughter. Here, he is transformed into a matador given

*We tend to overlook one of the sharpest minds that ever turned a scurrilous line or subversive lyric*

to gesticulating like a spoof traffic cop. Moreover, he is accompanied by a wife dressed as a bull and a daughter who talks like a shopgirl while singing like a diva. The satiric point disappears in meretricious ado and humourless humour.

That is the evening all over. Silly, meaningless, distracting things are forever happening on Venice's papier-mâché sand dunes. Suddenly a joke rat scampers across, a corpi in a kiddie-car appears behind a futuristic curtain, or someone swivels the aerial over the television the gondoliers are

watching, contorting the picture and their heads. Tim Hopkins, who directs, has done something quite difficult. He has found a way of escaping from traditionalism more destructive than traditionalism itself.

The *Iolanthe* that accompanies this attention-getting travesty to Sadler's Wells also aims to sand-blast the musty accretions off the operatic surface. Like Jonathan Miller's *Mikado*, it updates the period to the Twenties, transforming the fairies into genteel flappers and adding other details that, as it turns out, serve rather than distort the text. Poor Gilbert does not emerge unscathed (when does he ever?). The lyrics need wittier phrasing than an over-loud, overfast orchestra and the performers' own limitations permit. But Andrew Wickes, who directs, is not consciously determined to upstage his librettist. On the whole, he trusts Gilbert.

That is the real need. We remember Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, but not the tougher, more cynical play that inspired it, Gilbert's *Engaged*. We hum Sullivan, and perhaps know the words of the famous patter song about insomnia; but we tend to overlook one of the sharpest minds that ever turned a scurrilous line or subversive lyric.

We hear, but are rarely if ever encouraged to listen. Consider Gilbert's cast-list, packed as it is with humbugs and drosses: the fake-egalitarian landlubber from a pocket borough who becomes Ruler of the Queen's Navy for political conformity; the judge who marries the rich attorney's elderly, ugly daughter, only to ditch her when he has defended enough wealthy thieves to make his fortune;



Tim Curry in the British production of Joseph Papp and Wilford Leach's "splashy Broadway musical" version of *The Pirates of Penzance*

the Lord High Everything who traces his ancestry "to a protoplasmic primordial atomic globule", yet dines with middle-class people "on very reasonable terms"; the bent lawyers, the doxy peers, the sheep-like MPs.

Gilbert was no radical. His biographer, Hesketh Pearson, was probably right to dub him "an anarchist disguised as a Tory". Nor was he any ferocious Juvenal or crusading Swift. Yet there seems more than mere impishness in his unending attacks on nepo-

tism, jobbery and incompetence, his mockery of social, moral and emotional pretension, up to and including the language of love. When the Pirate King says "compared with respectability, our profession is comparatively honest", he is summing up Victorian civilisation for Gilbert.

The acid is most concentrated in the rarely performed *Utopia Ltd*, about a state which imports "flowers of progress" from Britain in the belief it is "the wisest

country in the world", one without slums or hunger and run by an intellectual elite. This thesis is then disproved by the usual set of shysters, as well as by a Lord Chamberlain who demonstrates how to organise a Cabinet meeting with "due regard for the solemnity of the occasion". "This is in accordance with the practice of the Court of St James," asks the puzzled Utopian king. "Well, with the practice of St James Hall," replies the Englishman, who has arranged the chairs after

the manner of some burlesque performers of the day, the Christy Minstrels. No wonder the old Queen and her contemporaries were dismayed. The challenge surely facing a director today is to make us feel slightly stung ourselves; and there is, in my view, only one way of achieving that. It is to cast Eric Idle as Koko, or to get Alec McCowen to play Captain Corcoran as a socially insecure suburbanite, as happened in an 1982 *Pingpong*. It is, in short,

to take the trickier, subtler puns from the professional singers and give them to good actors who can sing a bit. That way, Sullivan might not resonate so fulsomely, but Gilbert's irreverence might at last come across with clarity, humour and guile. Indeed, isn't it time the National Theatre gave at least one of the operas a go? If it can cope with Loesser and Sondheim, why not that great British wit, W.S. Gilbert?

Reviews, page 18

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

## Home is where the ears are most happy

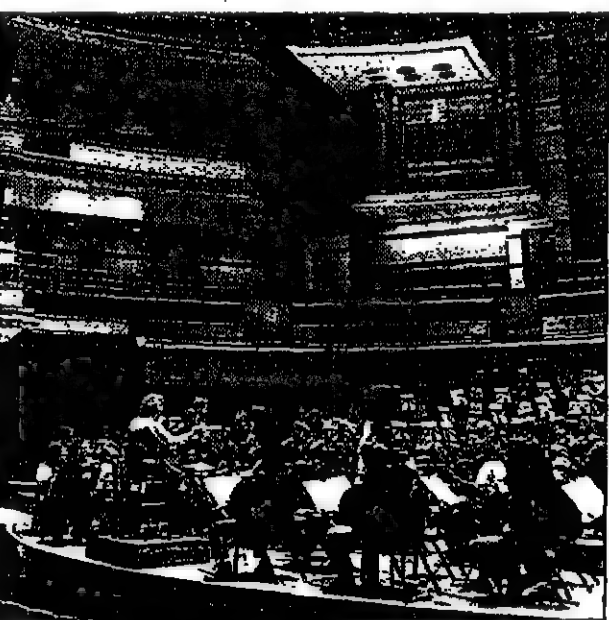
Members of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, preparing to move into a new hall, talk to Stephen Pettitt

Final responsibility for moulding the sound of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to suit the adjustable acoustics of Symphony Hall, its new home, unarguably rests with Simon Rattle. But his players, accustomed to the cramped intimacy and bizarre resonances of the old Town Hall, are the people most profoundly affected by the move. How are they preparing for next Monday's opening concert: their first public scrutiny in the new hall?

"The way we play will change, because you can hear absolutely everything," says Peter Currie, the second horn. "It's enlightening and distressing at the same time, but you don't feel as lonely as you do say, in the Festival Hall." But Philip Head, who plays in the first violin section, disagrees. "The new hall does actually make a string player feel lonely, perhaps because the acoustics we've been working in so far are set to be as dry as they can be."

The hall has a moveable canopy and reverberation chambers that can be opened or closed - allowing, in theory, great variation in the hall's acoustics. "We don't yet know what sort of difference there really is, whether after adjustment it sounds more bathroom-like," comments Head. Everybody agrees, however, that after a while there will be accepted acoustic settings for music of different periods and scale. So a visiting orchestra, new to the hall, will not have to experiment afresh for itself.

"But even if it stays dry acoustically, it will still be a big plus," says Currie. "In the Town Hall players can't hear a



Testing time: the CBSO in the new Symphony Hall

thing. There's a huge rake between us and the back of the strings, and this means there's a huge time-gap as well."

The percussionist Maggie Cotton agrees. "I've spent the last 30 years playing ahead of the beat. It's not the same in the new hall. The only reservation I have is that already he [Rattle] is flagging us down. You feel that you could drown the whole orchestra. I'm dying to play *Firebird* there."

Head, however, takes a more sober view. "We have to learn how the hall's responding to our playing, individually and collectively. Of course it will take time to acclimatise ourselves. Really it is a very lively sounding place, however."

Does the hall respond without bias to high, middle and low sounds? Head thinks it does, but Kevin Gowland, principal flute, is less sure. "I've heard that the bass end is very prominent. That came over in the first rehearsal, but since then it's changed considerably. As far as the wind players are concerned, our main concern is that everything we do is going to be so obvious."

Gowland had been off-duty when, a few days before our conversation, the CBSO's subscribers had been invited to a rehearsal in the new hall. He went into the auditorium to listen for himself. "Downstairs the sound was very good, very clear. Then I gradually went

upwards, and it got clearer. When I reached the top I could hear every single violinist. That's very frightening."

Cotton immediately turns the tables. "I hope the audience realises that we can hear them as well. You can hear them blinking their eyelashes, never mind rustling their sweet papers. Putting things down and picking things up is going to be difficult for us. But the new hall's got a good atmosphere."

One aspect with which the players are not pleased is backstage facilities. Currie: "The bar's got a limit of about 50 people."

"Yes, the orchestra is 96 for a start. What happens when you have a chorus and you've got visitors?" Gowland: "I saw the changing room the other day. Is that the only one?" Currie: "No, there are four, two for the men, two for the women. Even so, where does the chorus go?"

Meanwhile, the car parking is such that Gowland has resorted to using the bus for travelling in from the suburbs.

British musicians would not be British musicians if they did not pass such comments. But clearly the players are very excited about the auditorium itself. "I've a soft spot for the Town Hall; I was convinced that I wouldn't be able to bear moving out," says Cotton. "But when I stood on the new platform I felt we'd come home."

*One aspect with which players are not pleased is backstage facilities*

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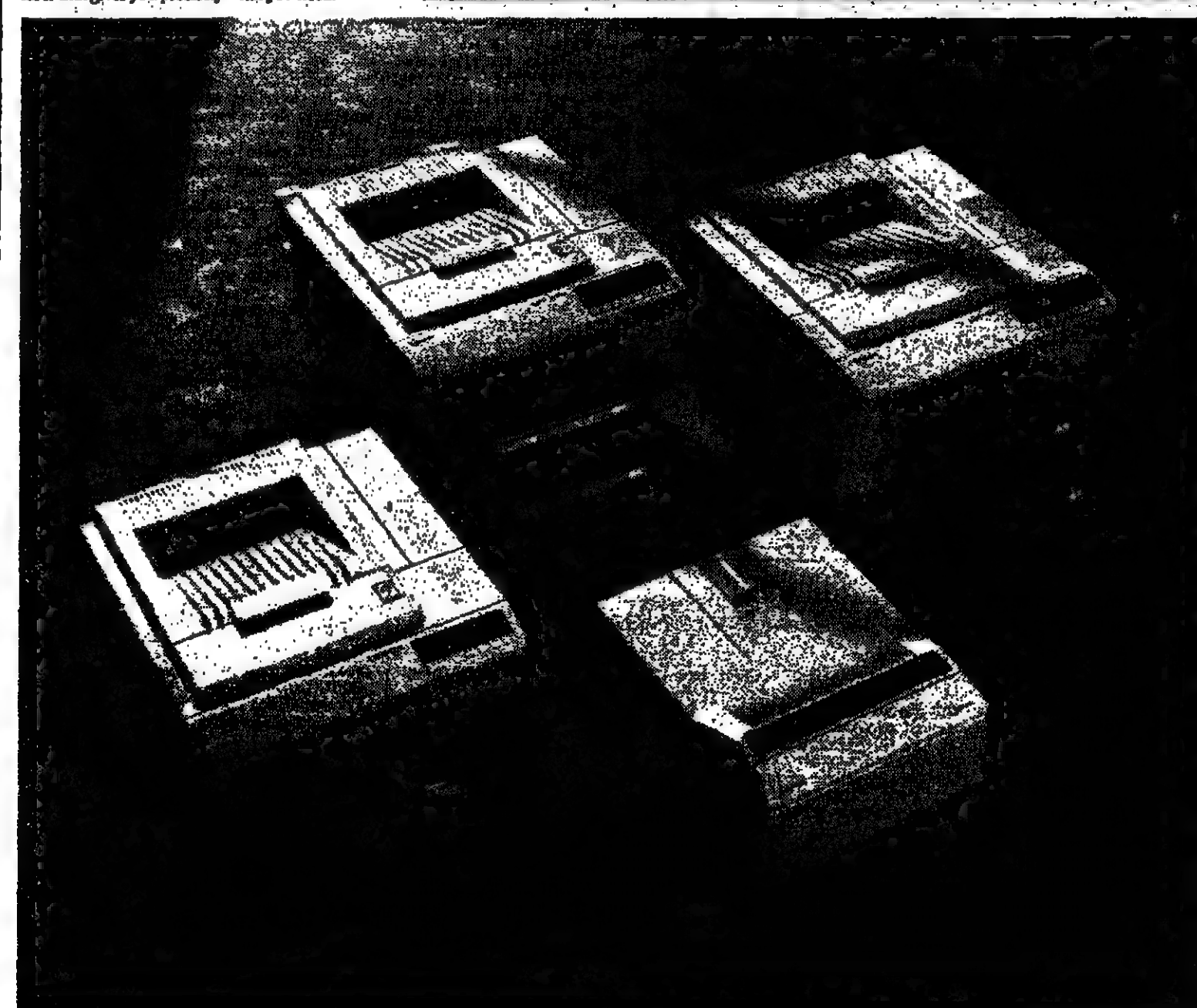
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## Anthony Parsons considers the security council line-up on the safe enclave proposal

That article ends by stating that the principle of non-intervention "shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII", precisely the measures to which Iraq has been subjected since last August. The destruction of Iraq's infrastructure and the occupation of 15 per cent of Iraqi territory have not in-

Moreover, security council resolution 688, adopted a few days ago, specifically condemns the Iraqi repression, the consequences of which it says "threaten international peace and security". So the proposal that secure enclaves should be established in Iraqi Kurdistan is not legally *ultra vires*.

It is true that the UN has intervened militarily in the domestic affairs of states, as in Cyprus since 1964 or the Congo between 1960 and 1964, only at the invitation or with the consent of the government in question.

What are the chances of the security council adopting a resolution approving the creation of the enclaves and the authority for the coalition (or any other form of UN force) to use "all necessary means" to protect them against any violation by the Iraqi government? In practice these necessary means would probably amount to rel-

**Saddam: only threat of force would keep him out**

The omens are mixed. To the amazement of cold war veterans such as myself, the security council has adopted no fewer than 14 tough, mandatory resolutions without veto since August 2, 1990. Nothing like this had happened before in the history either of the League of Nations or the UN. On the debit side, China abstained on Resolution 678 which originally authorised the use of force to liberate Kuwait, while the positive vote for Resolution 688 was the lowest yet, only ten in favour with three non-permanent members voting against and China and India abstaining. However, both those countries voted in favour of the ceasefire resolution 687, which also cuts deep into Iraqi sovereignty.

The problem for the sponsors of

What happens if a resolution fails to be adopted, either because of a veto or lack of votes? Does the world simply abandon the Kurds and Shias to their terrible fate and accept the creation, so long as Saddam lasts, of a new and large-scale refugee problem? This must not happen. Encouragingly, senior American spokesmen have confirmed that the thousands of Iraqis who have sought refuge in the

I still believe that the co should have prevented Sir Hussein from using heavy ons to bludgeon Iraq's peop submission and that there ' no peace in the region so loo remains in power. But the irate problem is to prevent development of a refugee pr that could be greater even th of the Palestinians.

*Sir Anthony Parsons was i ambassador to the United N 1979-82.*

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# Brother takes a pounding

But this amount of money does not produce high pay for union leaders. Ron Todd of the TGWU, for instance, is paid £43,000. Rodney Bickerstaffe of the public employees' union Nupe gets £35,000 and Albert Williams of the construction union Ucat £24,500. At the top end, Nalgo pays Alan Jinkinson £50,000; Christine Han-

benefits on top — it is still considerably less than the earnings of the heads of most private sector service companies.

Trade union leaders have never done the job for the money. Power, yes — but the days of beer and sandwiches in Downing Street are long gone, and there is no sign of wine and roses in Congress House.

On the other hand, the old puritan ethic prevails. The country retains an endearing prudishness that goes back to the civic propriety of New England and the founding fathers. This often makes for a peculiar stiffness of the type that *The Washington Post* to make passing reference on Monday to "a sexual encounter with a trumpet." It was reporting from Operation Kennedy in Palm Beach, the site of the biggest media blitz since Operation Desert Storm.

In recent years, the old censor-

The past month has seen some illuminating cases of the new puritanism, or lack of a sense of humour, as non-Americans see it. One was the reaction to the heavy-handed joke by French actor Gérard Depardieu to a woman interviewer that he had "participated" in rapes since the age of 15. The words had barely hit the page in *Time* magazine before the

Monroe during her Oscar-night song, in which she purred: "Talk to me, General Schwarzkopf!"

Feminists are angry over the emergence of Stormin' Norman as a national sex symbol.

In another case, some people were alleged to have taken offence when Deborah Norville, the star presenter of the oldest broadcast television show, allowed a magazine to publish some very demure photographs of her breastfeeding. Not exactly shocking, but this is the country that only recently allowed commercials to show real women wearing a bra and which has a star who is

Of course the titillation value of scandal is greatly accentuated by a sense of propriety. Tales about the love lives of the powerful do not generate media frenzy in Latin countries as they do in Britain, and even more in America. It was this added ingredient of hypocrisy that added to the entertainment value of the sex and money scandal that engulfed Jimmy Savagart and other television evangelists in the late 1980s. But the old rule of propriety also magnified the quins of conscience among those who pass on the goods. Similar quins are felt by

**T**he past week's feast of the Reagans and the media, the closest country has to royalty, has followed the course. In a feat of hypocrisy, the *New York Times* called up professor of journalism at Harvard and other eminent figures to explain to readers why the media saga was so gripping. Assuming that its readers

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Yet the Kurds  
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the most-watched network in the East, threw the Reagan boomerang, the Kennedy scandal into the basket and had its media mentor explain that they were legitimate stories because the stars involved were powerful politicians. This presumably makes everyone feel fine about President Bush "Whiney" name Mrs Reagan is alleged to have given her husband's

The government's argument on spiritualism will be whether it is a uniquely human carry a uniquely uniquely human victim of their death by reckless individuals. Children rise to a peculiar respect the mother experience him

House. The criminal justice system in the House is not a place where such a bill would be selected for study. The House is not a place where a bill would be selected for study. The House is not a place where a bill would be selected for study.

...and moreover  
**RAIG BROWN**

"Is right, señor," he said, "he is *notoriously* reclusive."  
"And *notoriously reclusive* too," added a little man further up the queue. It emerged that he was the literary editor of *Exchange and Mart*, and as such a close personal friend of Graham

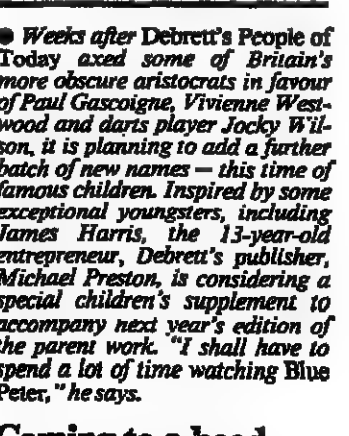
The waiting-room was decorated very much in keeping. Cigarette stubs, upturned flies and broken rosaries resting in small pools of spilt whisky were all laid out with welcoming precision, so that each journalist could cast an observant eye over them before jotting down in his notebook a short memo concerning the curious parallels between life and art, between Greene the man and Greene the novelist.

"Mr. Theroux," chirruped Greene's secretary, "Mr. Greene will see you now." A tarantula nestling on her hairpin hums his

"I'll see what I can do," said the secretary crisply, the tumbler on her hair-grip edging slowly towards her ear, perhaps influenced by drink.

At long last my own turn came for an exclusive interview with the great man. My impressions of our meeting remain as vivid today as they were when I left him. He had, I would say, an unexpected sense of fun, and that I can only describe as penetrating eyes. And oh yes, he was not only a reduction

Downing Street, not to put too much emphasis on it, has lifted the idea of a buffer zone between the Kurds and Iraq. But, Nigel Lawson said recently, it is the perception rather than the reality that counts — and the credit for persuading the world that London was first off the mark was due to Stephen Wall, the PM's foreign policy adviser, who succeeded Sir Charles Powell less than two weeks ago. Wall has clearly already earned his stripes as a senior adviser to the prime minister, even Major his boss, the foreign policy coup since coming to office, must when he needed it most.



A new David Hockney painting went on public view for the first time in London on Monday night, and no one noticed. The oval shaped oil, *Red Flowers and Blue Spots*, which has a £100,000 price tag, was given by the artist to Michael Cashman, the former star of *EastEnders*, for the Stonewall gay pressure group. But there was bewilderment at the

## Lost leader

**L**ord Sainsbury's resignation as chairman of the Royal Opera House has caused a storm of speculation. Is it merely coincidental that his departure coincides with the start of a detailed investigation by the Arts Council the subject is expected to be highly critical of the Royal Opera's management?

**GOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD**

on the Hockney

GED

last summer which strongly criticised the management. Some of the Covent Garden argued that the report should be published, however damning. Sainsbury resigned. The Arts Council's latest report, which no one expects to see, is likely to take six months to prepare. So, although Sainsbury is not due to leave Covent, it will land not in his August but that of his successor, Angus National, director-general of the National Trust.

of olive, apple, and vegetable oils, with their balsamic, or vinous, but mild, or better and the more so if frozen (frozen oils) found in fat (stale oil) be used, therefore, 10 or 12 c's leading oil down to a meal of 100 lbs. of the promotion flour Britain, The United Kingdom, and Scotland, the bank

opening of the exhibition, "Art for quality", at the ICA, as guests searched for the picture that had been billed as the star attraction. Alan Bates, the actor, said: "I have been here half an hour and I still haven't identified it. What does it look like?" Tory MP John Gowers did find the picture, but was unimpressed. "I was standing underneath it for half an hour before I realised what it was. I could not have it."

week. She is understudy to Johnson, star of the musical *Grease*, who telephoned on Sunday night to say she had an eye infection and asked Lewis to step in. Lewis did not hesitate — although she had been at home for two weeks since her husband, television producer Roger Lewis, died suddenly from cancer. "I believe in the old showbiz adage that whatever happens, happens," she says. "I'm going to make the most of this."

James J. Kovals, the chef from that most exotic of restaurants, when the *Am. Express*, founded the then slum eatery in Britain was five years ago, Berni as the pinnacle of the most British. Today (late 1981, 1,300 entries

food revolution. British cooking, foreign restaurants, France as an income, their lives or have enjoyed parties. Technology has brought exotic shores. The mind to taste. British discovered that even when cheap.

This last night this week's dinner of the cook's Connaught is a man. The dinner was *coquille*, *brûlée* may have recipe was French, *sauté*, *saute*. The sherry is in Britain. The British cook's *saute* is in the influence by Sweden and France from Britain: the concept of Britain offers. The culinary scene this time





## PLACE OF SAFETY

international airport now under... and Iraq, the plight of the grows more desperate by the leaders, blamed on all sides for the Kurdish rebellion, are... to help. Hence the instant support for John Major's plan, by the Turkish President, for a "safe haven" for the Iraq, to end the massing of the border mountains and the danger to political stability inside

minister's initiative has com- in the capitals of Europe... The proposal implies a... for its establishment and... For the first time since... the shadow of renewed... over the victory celebrations... partners must consider care-... this is another cheque which... prepared to honour, or whether... new United Nations force will... Iraq with land forces to make... propaganda coup a reality... plan envisages the declaration... northern Iraq where Kurdish... be supplied with food and... the United Nations. The... is to save Kurdish lives. The... is to persuade the refugees to... air homes with guarantees of... aim is not the creation of an... Kurdistan.

to the Major plan are not hard... There is no convincing... UN intervention to protect a... persecution by a sovereign... within its own borders. There... states, including others with... which might object to... Civil wars are the most... and nasty of conflicts, but they... by outside intervention... serious objection to the Major... argument that, because the... id represent an infringement of... ignty, the UN could not claim... partial observer since Baghdad... accept its presence. Saddam's... Saadoun Hammadi, threat-... (the plan) with all means". It... presented by Saddam as the... Kurdish separatism by Turk-... to further the interests of... and British imperialism. Many

## UNCOMMON MURDERERS

confined to a wheelchair was... of a wasting disease. She had... suffer a lingering and painful... the same illness two years... She begged her husband to put... her misery. Eventually he gave in... red her with a pillow. The jury... the man could not plead... instead of murder. He had... deliberately while in a healthy... and not on the spur of the... despite regrets expressed in a... judge, the jurors had to find the... The judge had no choice but... him to life imprisonment, the... sentence for murder... ary amendment to the criminal... is designed to redress such... lord Nathan, the author of the... chaired the 1989 Lords select... on murder and life imprison-... recommended that there was no... for blanket life sentences for... latest in a formidable line of... 1 different bodies reaching the... sion. The view is shared by Lord... Chief Justice, along with 12... n's 19 most senior judges... century, mandatory sentences... nplace. Society came to realise... sheepstealers deserved to hang... job of a judge and jury was to... case on its merits, and exercise... ion in sentencing. By 1965, the... tory sentence left was capital... for murder. When that was... e hardliners were appeased by... tory life sentence in its... the Lord Chief Justice of the... Parker, thought it should be

discretionary. Now Britain has more life-sentence prisoners than all the other countries of Western Europe put together. The government will oppose the amendment on spurious grounds. Lord Waddington will be wheeled out to claim that murder is a uniquely heinous crime which should carry a uniquely serious sentence. Why is it uniquely heinous? Certainly, it deprives victims of their lives, but so does causing death by reckless driving, manslaughter and infanticide. Child abuse and rape also give rise to a peculiar horror. Yet nobody would expect the mother who accidentally injures a screaming baby with a slap to receive the same sentence as a teacher who seductively abuses and tortures a child in her care.

Home Office ministers are apparently worried that judges will give murderers fixed-term sentences that will allow them to commit a second murder on release. Yet murder is a crime that is hardly ever committed twice, usually committed by one family member to another in the heat of the moment. It is a rare crime, seldom committed by "criminals" and peculiarly unsuited to any idea of deterrence.

Judges would not be deprived of the option of a life sentence, which they would certainly use if they saw any risk of a continuing danger to the public. Sadly the reason for the government's intransigence is politics. Kenneth Baker dares not face accusations at a Tory party conference that he has gone soft on murderers. He knows he could argue that the public has lost confidence in life sentences and that under a new system a life sentence could really mean it. But he will not. British justice will be the worse for politicians' cowardice.

## FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Britain: the very thought was... to make a gourmet ritch... managed to ensure no correla-... the quality of their ingredients... ste. There was boiling, long... with sodium bicarbonate, app-... ticular savagery to vegetables... negar, not wine, nor balsamic... ive cider vinegar, but malt... weetness of beetroot and the... mint. There was cod (frozen)... iter (soggy) fried in fat (stale)... in newspaper (dirty)... tic breast beats fast, therefore... that 200 of France's leading... s week sat down to a meal of... nder the banner of the promo-... sation Food from Britain. The... wild and Scottish, the lamb... he potatoes Jersey Royals, the... 1, and the chef from that most... ndon hotels, the Connaught... s ago, when the *bon viveur*,... stgate, founded the then slim... ide, to eat well in Britain was... Twenty-five years ago, Berni... garded as the pinnacle of the... itions of most Britons. Today... e barman once looked askance... for a plate of pâté will produce... as a pint of bitter... may debate the cause of the

non-Kurdish Iraqis will believe him. The American 7th Corps started to withdraw from southern Iraq yesterday, eagerly encouraged by war-weary American public opinion. Mr Major knows that his allies are in no mood to resume the war. Yet the lack of American enthusiasm or of a UN precedent is an insufficient reason to reject the Major plan out of hand. The war of liberation in Kuwait that led to the civil war in Iraq had many unprecedented features. The Kurds would have a claim to protection from genocide even if their exodus had not taken on an international dimension.

Is there a version of the Major plan that might have some chance of success? The best hope would surely be for the Iraqis to be persuaded that it is in their interests to prove to the world that no harm faces the Kurds if they return to their towns and villages. If the Kurds cannot be given firm guarantees, the Iraqis can at least be told to admit UN observers as part of the ever more complicated price of the dismantling of economic sanctions. Diplomacy with Saddam in these circumstances may seem odious to outsiders, but some attempt to relieve the Kurdish disaster is called for.

There is no great difficulty in international law in sending an expeditionary force south from Turkey to enforce an enclave if such approaches are rebuffed. The threat to regional peace and the threat to the lives of the entire Kurdish people are sufficient justification. But there is no sign that the Americans will rouse themselves from the calculated inactivity of the past fortnight to countenance military action.

The logistical difficulty of establishing an enclave against hostile troops and then protecting it indefinitely would be massive and would, in effect, involve Turkey in a war with Iraq. Nor would such a conflict necessarily be in the true interest of the Kurds themselves, who have long sought to live at peace with hostile host nations.

Yet the Kurds at present have first claim on the attention of the international community. To this extent, any effort by any Western leader to assist them merits consideration. Mr Major's initiative deserves serious examination by the UN and the European Community. At least it maintains the pressure on Saddam. From that pressure comes the hope that he may alter his view of where his own interest lies.

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food revolution in Britain. The awfulness of British cooking drew in a multitude of foreign restaurateurs, from Italy, Spain and France as well as India and China. A rise in incomes that Postgate, a socialist, might never have expected under capitalism has enabled people to eat out more often. Technology has contributed faster airplanes bringing exotic produce swiftly to our shores. The microwave delivers it piping hot to table. Britons travelling abroad have discovered that food need not be disgusting, even when cheap.

This last highlights one factor clear from this week's dinner: the internationalisation of the cook's art. The chef from the Connaught is Michel Boudin, a Frenchman. The salmon was Scottish but the dish was *coulbiac*, from Russia. The *crème brûlée* may have used British cream but the recipe was French; the Stilton came in a soufflé, scarcely native Melton Mowbray. The sherry in the consommé was not made in Britain. The vogue may be for "New British" cooking, but the first five restaurants in the 1991 *Good Food Guide* are influenced by California, Armenia, Japan, Sweden and France. By all means, let Food from Britain remind the world of the cornucopia of home-grown delights that Britain offers. But Britons should not forget the culinary contribution of others that has made this the golden age of the table.

## Proposed closure of London's zoo

From Mr John Toovey  
Sir, Your leading article of April 8 on the threatened closure of London's zoo expresses an outdated view. Conservation is about animals and even more so their ecology and habitat; it is most definitely not about conserving zoos in their existing form.

It is no longer acceptable for large animals to be kept in confined urban situations just as a "popular point of contact between the public and wild animal life". They have a right to live naturally, but unfortunately the pressures and fallout from mankind have deprived many animals of their wild habitat, and almost daily a species becomes extinct.

When conservation cannot be achieved in the natural state or reserves, it may be appropriate to keep in captivity a limited number of species for education, study, and breeding - although captive breeding has resulted in only a handful of successful reintroductions to the wild.

Those large animals that are kept for good reason should certainly not be confined in an urban zoo such as London's, where many animals are under stress because space is at a premium. Wild-animal parks have space, though whether it is always used to the animal's advantage is another matter.

I believe that what we need are not zoos, nor even wild-animal parks, but centres for the interpretation and encouragement of wildlife conservation. It is the animal's natural habitat, whether on land, in the sea, or in the air, that is in danger from destruction and pollution. There is no use in taking out and preserving one living component when it is the complete interactive habitat that is important and should be studied and conserved.

Wildlife centres could put across these messages without keeping large numbers of animals in captivity, and are likely to be just as attractive for the increasingly aware and discerning children and family visitors of today. Compare the burgeoning success of museums and interactive science centres with the decline in zoo attendances.

There are indications that zoos in Britain are responding to calls for change, but more slowly than many people would have liked. It might help if the name "zoo" followed its dispirited predecessor "menagerie" into disuse, and was replaced by a title more appropriate to the needs of the animals and concerns of today.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN TOOVEY  
(Architect to the Zoological Society of London, 1967-87),  
Ashcroft, Ashley Green,  
Chesham, Buckinghamshire,  
April 8.

From Dr R. D. and Mrs J. A. Reubin  
Sir, Having spent a disappointing day last week at London Zoo, we are not at all surprised that attendances are falling and the zoo's closure is planned. A distinct lack of animals, so many empty enclosures and cages, left us with the dismal feeling that we were in a ghost town.

Ice creams at £1, hot dogs at £2, car park £5, adult entrance fee £3, added to our impression that desperate measures were already being taken.

The fun of the zoo was missing.

## Air routes dispute

From the Managing Director of Gatwick Airport Limited

Sir, London's Gatwick Airport - still one of the busiest international airports in the world - can hardly be described as "remote" and is certainly not a scheduled airlines graveyard (letters, March 28).

Gatwick is a base for some 50 scheduled carriers, and passengers using scheduled flights now account for 60 per cent of the airport's 21 million passengers a year.

The airport is just 30 minutes by the non-stop Gatwick Express rail service to London Victoria and 10 minutes from the M25.

I don't think we need to call in the undertakers just yet.

Yours faithfully,  
ALLAN MUNDS,  
Managing Director,  
Gatwick Airport Limited,  
Gatwick, West Sussex,  
April 8.

## English in schools

From Baroness James of Holland Park and Professor Marilyn Butler

Sir, We write to express the concern of the Arts Council's literature panel about the pressures which may be exerted upon the time for reading, especially the reading of literature, in the national curriculum. Though English has been designated a core subject, it is being encroached on by the rest of the curriculum. In particular it looks like losing out to the other two core subjects, maths and science.

At present, children can earn certificates in GCSE for both English (which includes an element of literature) and English Literature, just as they can earn certificates for both Maths and Science. The two subjects together are economical, using a smaller share of the timetable than is required by double science. Yet we understand that a decision has been taken to drop the second certificate when pupils start work on the GCSE part of the core curriculum in 1992, the part which rewards the substantial English literature element which may be taught within the core curriculum.

The effects of this decision are certain to be immediately damaging, and may be far-reaching. Already the time allocated to English in the proposed timetable, four periods a

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Court decisions on child abuse

From Professor Emeritus A. H. Thornton

Sir, Are we not looking at the Rochdale and Orkney affairs from the wrong end? Surely we should start by remembering that we have legislated to give groups of local government functionaries (some perhaps neither particularly well-trained nor intellectually very able) a terrifying power which enables them to override the human rights of any family in the country by entering homes and removing children from them by force.

Moreover, this power can be exercised on the flimsiest hearsay evidence. Anything like legal or even everyday commonsensical proof is not needed before the dreadful machine is put into motion.

As the Butler-Sloss guidelines ("cautious and measured intervention") seem not to have proved strong enough, we should now establish specific, definitive and mandatory safeguards to be put into operation before the power can be used.

Yours faithfully,  
A. H. THORNTON,  
Chapel Cottage, Autherpe,  
Louth, Lincolnshire,  
April 5.

From Mr Peter Beazley, MEP for Bedfordshire South (European Democrat (Conservative))  
Sir, Who says that the London Zoo must close? Nonsense! Ask all the grandfathers from the furthest parts of the British Isles who visited the zoo as children, when their parents took them to London, who later took their own children and now their grandchildren.

Whipsnade is a wonderful place within five minutes of my constituency home in Little Gaddesden, but it is not in London. Britain's capital, like all other major European capitals, must have its own zoo and Regent's Park is the ideal place for it.

Respective of its being a major attraction and educational institution for all our children, the zoo has a most important place in our society, both from the scientific and historical point of view. If Britain can afford £50 million, better on the Grand National it can easily afford to maintain such a popular and educational institution as the London Zoo.

If the government will offer no help, ask the people to support it. They will do so with a popular appeal, and there is no reason why the London authorities and industry, if properly approached, should not do so as well.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BEAZLEY,  
4 Bridgewater Court,  
Little Gaddesden,  
Nr Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire,  
April 8.

From Mr A. Seth-Smith  
Sir, London Zoo has seen many changes since my grandfather, David Seth-Smith, kindled children's interest through his radio broadcasts in the 1930s as "The Zoo Man". Yet the proposal to abandon Regent's Park shows a feeble lack of imagination and determination from the zoo's governing council and the Department of the Environment.

They should draw up a plan to offer a reduced but still representative collection of animals, housed in the best conditions.

Yours faithfully,  
ALVAN SETH-SMITH,  
5 Sandy Lodge Way,  
Northwood, Middlesex,  
April 8.

From Mr Keith Martin  
Sir, Why not privatise the zoo and float it off as a public limited company? Why should it remain exempt from the forces of the market?

Yours sincerely,  
KEITH MARTIN,  
4 Blake Road, New Southgate, N11,  
April 8.

## Nitrogen limitation

From Mr Anthony Rosen

Sir, Mr Aiden Harrison's contention (April 8) that "nitrogen limitation [is] the only rational solution to the crisis facing Europe's agriculture" is misguided. Statutory nitrogen limitation would be comparable to slowing down a factory production line and believing that this would in itself produce greater efficiency.

Such an artificial restriction on efficient farming would truly spell the end of Britain's agricultural industry. Why not carry this to its illogical conclusion and limit all tractors to a maximum horsepower of just ten?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY ROSEN  
(Chief Executive),  
Fenris Farming,  
Roshill, Arford,  
Headley, Hampshire,  
April 8.

week, looks too short. Once the second certificate moves out of the core, even this share is sure to come under further pressure. Books will drop to a lower place among a school's spending priorities.

It is only by an encouragement of a child's creativity that we shall produce great literature in the future. So far the principle has been widely accepted that in education language and literature are not competitive but complementary and that part of a command of thought and language, which our children will need throughout their lives, is the ability to read complex and sustained material.

No public announcement or explanation has been given for such a shift in policy on English literature. Nor has there been an opportunity for the public to consider its consequences for the study of English in schools. We feel that it is time for a clear statement by the secretary of state of his recognition of the place of English literature in the core curriculum.

Yours faithfully,  
P. D. JAMES  
(Chairman, Literature Panel),  
MARILYN BUTLER  
(Member, Literature Panel),  
Arts Council,  
14 Great Peter Street, SW1,  
March 28.

## Court decisions on child abuse

From the Director of Social Services for Essex

Sir, Managing child abuse, and more especially child sexual abuse, is fraught with enormous difficulties, not the least of which is the management of the various disciplines involved. We should recognise that the Butler-Sloss guidelines considerably advance our knowledge and understanding of how to manage all aspects of child abuse.

I would however take issue with any suggestion of ever improving guidance on the basis of individual case experiences. The Rochdale report, written by the Department of Health social services inspectorate, neatly pointed out those who had not played their part in assisting Rochdale social services in the management of the particular cases. Significantly, for me, those who did not get involved escaped criticism by press and public.

In common with other reports, including the Butler-Sloss Cleveland report, Rochdale clearly shows that general practitioners are poor attenders at child protection case conferences - unlike the social workers. In a nutshell, the Department of Health guidelines, as presently constituted, allow social workers to be scapegoated.

I am bound by law to support Department of Health guidelines and their operation within Essex. If the choice were mine I would abandon central government advice immediately. I would encourage the Department of Health to nominate one agency to manage child abuse and empower it to seek and obtain all the necessary evidence and co-operation.

The public must understand that some adults do unspeakable things to children. As a director of social services I could with ease, even here in Essex, write a weekly column for the local newspaper on the successful cases handled by this department on the wide-ranging subject of child abuse, including sexual abuse. These cases are handled successfully and the children are properly protected, with the majority of them remaining within the family setting and not being removed from home.

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE HAWKER,  
Director of Social Services,  
Essex County Council,  
PO Box 297, County Hall,  
Chelmsford, Essex,  
April 5.

From Mr David Green  
Sir, Court work teaches lawyers how to recognise and avoid leading questions. Psychoanalytical training teaches psychiatrists how to avoid loaded questions. Criticism by David Kelbie, Sheriff of Grampian, Highland and Islands, suggested that some social workers involved in alleged child abuse cases are unable either to recognise or avoid both leading and loaded questions (report, April 5).

A child's evidence is essentially at least as reliable as that of any adult; but a child's wish to please a questioning adult makes it far more likely to give answers suggested by inept questions. Child abuse is horrific and social workers' determination to root it out is wholly admirable. But they will defeat the interest they seek to serve if they do not learn and employ safeguarding interviewing techniques long since evolved and practised by other professions.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GREEN,  
Rhdyd yr Harding, Castle Morris,  
Nr Haverfordwest, Dyfed,  
April 6.

Death in prison  
From the Senior Chief Clerk of Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court

Sir, That an inquest jury at Southwark should find that Edwin Robinson had killed himself in Brixton prison in "circumstances brought about by lack of care" seems entirely appropriate (report, April 6).

Contrary to what your report suggests, Edwin Robinson left my court in custody accompanied at all times by a warrant stating the order of the court and certifying that he was suffering from mental illness. To assist the prison medical services, detailed assessments of his mental condition made by two psychiatrists were attached to the warrant.

It was this warrant which authorised Brixton prison to receive and detain Edwin Robinson pending his admission to a hospital; without this warrant and the

accompanying documents he would not have gained entry to Brixton prison.

It is a tragic irony that my court is one of the very few in this country that encourages and accommodates the weekly visit of two forensic psychiatrists for the very purpose of speedily diverting mentally ill defendants to hospitals and away from the brutalising effect of our under-resourced prisons. This initiative receives no extra financial support from government sources.

Care for the mentally ill defendant is not lacking at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court and I regret that I was not called to give evidence at the inquest. This was a sad and, in my view, avoidable death.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL PASCOE,  
Senior Chief Clerk,  
Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court,  
King's Cross Road, WCI,  
April 8.

## Women as heads

From the Headmaster of Dover College

Sir, Mrs Elizabeth Baker (April 3), in discussing senior appointments in Headmasters' Conference co-educational schools, very reasonably draws attention to the fact that no such schools are headed by women. This is a matter of great sadness to many of us.

Mrs Baker should not imagine, however, that HMC policy is at fault. Some years ago, in response to a written enquiry, the HMC committee assured us that, were a woman appointed head of one of our schools, she would not be banned from membership on the ground of her sex. We therefore simply await that first appointment.

My governors have recently appointed my successor, a person to lead a school which has been fully co-educational since 1975. They naturally wished to appoint the applicant who seemed most suited to the task. The ratio of female to male applicants was one to 65. Not surprisingly a man was appointed.

The question to which we should be addressing ourselves is why women are not applying for the headship of HMC co-educational schools. It would be interesting to know how many such schools Mrs Baker herself applied before she took up her present appointment.

Yours faithfully,  
JACK K. IND, Headmaster,  
Dover College,  
Dover, Kent,  
April 3.

## Vital statistics

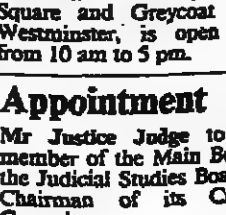
From Mrs Elaine Murray

Sir, According to your Fashion Editor, Liz Smith (April 2), the average British woman is short. This is impossible. If she is average, she is neither short nor tall. She is average.

Yours,  
ELAINE MURRAY,  
26 Greyhades Gardens,  
Wat Tyler Road, SE10,  
April 3.

Business letters, page 27





numbered two young and had in well  
three years before he was admitted  
the seducing girls was often the  
cause the precious, the expensive  
them, and above all, the utterly  
expected masculine quality of his  
to become a well-bred, noble  
Togati, in whose career he was placed.  
In 1847, two years before his time  
Nikolay entered the Ministry of the  
war and made his debut in the  
following year on the Marquis de  
Rome's *Le Paillard d'Armede*. More  
than a considerable war from the  
very beginning, wholly traditional  
though his style of dancing was con-  
for some time continued to be  
Through Folies, Nikolay found his  
an style of movement and gesture.  
It was in May, 1860, that Diaghilev  
brought the "Hamlet Ballet" with the  
great roll of echoing music to the  
for the first time. Paris was taken  
shorter in a night, in the  
simplicity of *Le Pavane d'Armede*  
and *Les Ballets de la Nuit*. In the  
of *Le Pavane d'Armede* and the  
of *Les Ballets de la Nuit* Nikolay was  
irresistible. "All London" another  
expulsed to him when Diaghilev  
company came to Covent Garden in  
1911. The audience was as simple  
man to him, enthralled by his  
execution in *Le Pavane de la Nuit*,  
which was in the nature of a pan-  
demon with Karpavich.

In the following year he made his  
debut as choreographer - a rhema-  
nephew of genius but of infinitely more  
and careful method - in *Le Pavane*  
of the same name. Here, in a master-  
piece of fidelity to the nature of the  
classical Greek dance, was a treat  
with tradition mixed, not with a  
style of the 19th century, but with  
which he worked with brilliant  
uncommon insight the personae  
magnificent, in face of the  
staggered postures which  
called forth, Nikolay was content  
over his audience to "night-  
mare and a new poem."

In the year 1912, before his first  
marriage to Diaghilev and his  
marriage to Maudie de Polignac, his  
daughter, a well-known Hungarian  
actress. The unaccounted absence  
himself in London followed, then his  
engagement. Hungary after the  
outbreak of war in 1914, he returned  
but went to America, and the present  
time was a year of his life.







## Bizet in fresher clothing

Gregg Baker as Miller, Damon Evans as Joe and Wilhelmina Fernandez as Carmen in *Carmen Jones*Carmen Jones  
Old Vic

THE plant life in the London commercial theatre is pretty sparse and limp just now. But Simon Callow's mostly splendid production leaves one corner of the garden looking much lusier. Since the tunes are by Bizet, and Oscar Hammerstein's book follows the general line of *Memphis* and *Halcyon*, it is hardly surprising that the evening maintains a strong hold both on the ears and on the parts in between. But you could go from *Drury Lane* to *Her Majesty's* to the Adelphi without finding the same energy or the same class of singing.

Some might argue that the all-black cast would be better employed in the original opera. If colour-blind casting is acceptable in Shakespeare, why not in Bizet? Moreover, Hammerstein's adaptation is itself somewhat dated, since it is set in 1943 and starts in a Southern parachute warehouse. Yet this makes for a less Ruritanian, more recognisable array of characters than all those bandits and gypsies. And had Bizet seen what the Viennese and other revisionists did to *Carmen* soon after his death, he might have been grateful for what, in both senses of the word, is Hammerstein's freshness.

Don José becomes Joe, in Damon Evans's performance a pretty gentle, naive sort, considering he is a military policeman. Confronted with Wilhelmina Fernandez's predatory Carmen, he at first reacts nervously, flinching and swallowing and avoiding her gaze as he crams pencils and

paper into his briefcase. But the innocence and vulnerability pay dividends, since they help explain his increasingly mesmerised, stricken looks, as of some rodent trapped by a cat. From that it is a logical enough step to the mooring, desolate figure he cuts in Chicago, where Carmen has lured and abandoned him. For Evans's Joe, life has become one long, dull, obsessive ache.

This is a touching if understated performance; and it is not quite as impressively sung as Fernandez's Carmen. It is largely because the vocal challenges are less great. She enters in an army jeep, lolls with a Coke on an ice bucket, and proceeds to swoop boldly and down the musical scale, ending a

sexuality which, even when she is provocatively fingering and stroking her prey, seems entirely effortless. Perhaps she misses the wildness, the anarchy in the role. But a dangerous assurance is there, with a callous narcissism; and her evolution into a bitch in furs is perfectly plausible.

Callow shifts the action from his fretwork warehouse to a gaudy nightclub to a Chicago mansion (the cast all in whites and blacks) to the outside of a corrugated-iron stadium. His handling of the crowd fretfully awaiting the boxer Husky Miller, as Escanillo has become, is particularly adept. But some effects are too broad, indeed too Broadway. No song should end with Carmen atop a pyramid

of atrociously comic a lot of applause, making can muddy the words become too f

But those are quibbles compensations that ind Baker's Miller, a maj with a nonchalant swag, Parks's Cindy Lou, mix than her prototype, Mi not least, lyrics good selves. Another pair of (Sharon Benson and Mrtin) are to alternate w and Fernandez; but M on marvelously bopping personal Towner sus cisions in a row, points, the rest were all

BENEDICT NIGHT



A black and white photograph of a person's face, possibly a performer, looking towards the camera.

## THEATRE

## Cat With Green Violin

## Orange Tree, Richmond

LOUIS Wain drew cats, hundreds of cats and nothing but cats. Cats playing tennis, operatic cats singing arias, thirty cats pouring cups of tea. After 30 years of this his wits finally turned and he passed the rest of his life in asylums, drawing cats to the end. Several of his latter drawings are exhibited at the Maudsley Hospital in a sequence purporting to show the marked stages of schizophrenic breakdown.

## THEATRE

## The Life and Times of Fanny Hill

## Battersea Arts Centre

RED Shift's re-interpretation of this ramshackle tale is resolutely at odds with the original, so why stop there? What about Mrs Beeton's *Everyday Cookery* as a polemic against greed? Or *Madam Butterfly* as an argument in favour of mixed marriages? These reversals should be simple enough, seeing how ruthlessly April de Angelis has edited John Cleland's account of his vigorous whore.

The aim of this recension is to confront us with the falsity of pornographic writing, and de Angelis does this by putting Fanny's sexual adventures in the stage equivalent of quotes. A raddled old Fanny (Laura Cox) is persuaded to write her autobiography and, since her memory is fading, she asks two younger members of the profession to act

## CONCERT

## Capricorn Purcell Room

BERIO apart, contemporary Italian music is almost inaudible in this country. Capricorn's Italian series has therefore been useful simply as a bonus that all the pieces in its final programme were so well performed.

The accent this time was on the post-war generation, among whom Salvatore Sciaccino is the commanding figure, for reasons partly suggested by the performance of his *Lo spazio inverso*. This short piece carries an imaginative world, at once severe and beguiling, a celestia uncharacteristically becomes the dominator of the ensemble, fitfully erupting with thunderous lightning strokes over an aural landscape of exceedingly fine sounds. The strings project filamentary harmonics; the clarinet slowly throbs on a soft chord, and its quickening seems to

## CONCERT

## Capricorn Purcell Room

rush the piece to a sud We need to hear more S Of the others, Luca H seemed as much bel Scarrino as Sandro G Donatoni. It makes one better about one's igno Italian music should it be so parochial. Mau Myrica perhaps also o thing to Donatoni's e strangeness and artifi the indelicacy of the time, cello and piano) s particular personality.

Stefano Gervasoni's *Q* was even more tant setting of four mode poems, fearlessly sun King, it has a firmness and oddness of means almost stranded on the note, others using piz (the piano) for which Ku have been the model.

It is good news that t Sinfonietta has commi piece from this compos

PAUL G

Arts feature

## CONCERT

## Capricorn Purcell Room

THEATRE

## The Life and Times of Fanny Hill

## Battersea Arts Centre

THEATRE

## The Life and Times of Fanny Hill

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## The Life and Times of Fanny Hill

## Battersea Arts Centre











INNESS AND FINANCE 21-27  
28  
IA 29  
IDENTIAL PROPERTY 33  
IMERCIAL PROPERTY 35  
RT 36-40

## Lowes Business delays trial

charges against the head of Barlow the collapsed financial, were put on ice because of his illness.

## Age tour formed

executives of the our arm of Harry's failed insurance Group have operation planned about 300,000 flights this summer already troussures that have ing of collapses.

## Comfort to the

le falls  
torneys, the safety and plastic sheeting will make the struggle after that pre-tax profits £3.03 million to don in the six February 28. The idend is held at 4p.

## slips

fits at Laird Group, to the automotive fell from £43.7 million last year. idend of 6p makes

## Index

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138)  
dai Avge  
(290.25)

## CHANGES

482tp (+8p)  
183p (+11p)  
88tp (+14p)  
467tp (+18p)  
355p (+12p)  
402p (+11p)  
815p (+20p)  
682tp (+30p)  
68p (+5p)  
199tp (+11p)  
71tp (+8p)  
580p (+18p)  
885p (+14p)

## ices... Page 24

304p (+14p)  
383tp (+11p)  
422tp (+10p)  
277tp (+10p)  
933tp (+8p)  
933tp (+18p)  
273tp (+10p)

## ST RATES

Base 12 1/2%  
nk 12 1/2 1/2%  
Bills 11 3/4-11 5/8%  
9%  
10 1/2%  
ny Bills 5 5/8-5 6 3/8%  
6 1/2-6 3/4%

## EXCHANGES

New York  
\$ 51.7935  
\$ DM1 5.888  
\$ Swf11.4140  
\$ FF5 6480  
\$ Yen135.05  
\$ Index 54.8  
SDR 10.70878  
£ SDR1 300599

## OLD

3364.00  
4.25 (2203.50)

## NEW

64.75  
\$18.85 bid (\$18.80)  
trading price

## PRICES

ny (1987=100)

# France facing Brittan probe on Bull cash

By ROSS THOMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Leon Brittan, the European competition commissioner, has threatened an enquiry into moves by the French government to inject £680 million into Groupe Bull, France's loss-making state computer firm.

The unusual pre-emptive step by Sir Leon is widely seen as a reflection of growing tension within Brussels between free marketeers and those who favour an interventionist role in strategic industries.

Sir Leon's announcement yesterday followed protests by ICL, the British-based, but Japanese and Canadian owned, computer group. ICL has argued in submissions to both Sir Leon's office and the British government that cash injections into Bull would distort competition.

In his statement, Sir Leon said he had asked the French government to submit to him their plans for an £880 million cash injection into Bull and Thomson, the loss making French state defence and consumer electronics group.

Details of the likely level of the French cash injection emerged in provisional government budget proposals.

Roger Fauroux, the French industry minister, believes it important for Europe to lend support to its fragmented and weak computer industry, which faces powerful competition from American and Japanese rivals.

Sir Leon said any cash injection would be investigated "in view of the losses incurred by the companies and the difficulties being experienced in this sector throughout the Community".

The investigation would also focus on the impact that support to Bull and Thomson would have on the competitive position of their EC rivals.

Two weeks ago Bull unveiled a net loss of Fr6.8 billion during 1990. Thomson had an attributable net loss of Fr270 million in the first half of last year.

The French government is proposing to subscribe for £200 million of new Bull shares this year, and as many again next year. In addition, it may provide £280 million over four years to help Bull develop machines that can be more easily built into networks with other companies' products. The research cash would make up 20 per cent of Bull's research and development budget.

The debate in Brussels will hinge upon whether the investments rank as logical commercial decisions or subsidies. Brussels has already indicated its belief that state shareholders in companies should behave in the same way as private shareholders if competition within the Community is to be fair.

Intervention by Sir Leon's office is likely to meet mixed reactions around the Community. The Italian government is believed to have been investigating ways in which it could support Olivetti, the troubled computer maker.

Approval from Brussels for French support for Bull might trigger an Italian request to provide assistance to Olivetti. Philips, another European company which has met with only limited success in computers, has little prospect of help from the Dutch government despite big losses and worldwide cutbacks.

Siemens Nixdorf, the leading German computer maker which is now the largest in the community, was created without state subsidy. If the interventionists lose the debate, Siemens Nixdorf could emerge as the focus of a new European grouping.

European computer manufacturers have been held back by their failure to achieve economies of scale, partly because leading European countries reserved government markets for their own computer makers.

They also failed to keep pace with rapid changes in technology which has led to an abrupt shift from powerful mainframe machines to networks of micro computers.

The main precedent for the developing conflict between Brussels and Paris is the showdown over state aid to Renault, the French car maker, which is majority-owned by the state.

Last May, Sir Leon compelled the company to repay or start paying interest on Fr6 billion of aid because there was too little emphasis on capacity cuts and restructuring in the package. However, Bull has already announced plans for substantial job losses.

JOHN Mowlem has joined the growing band of house-builders and construction companies asking shareholders for new money by announcing a one-for-five rights issue that will raise £45.6 million after expenses.

Sir Philip Beck, the chairman, said the rights issue proceeds will be invested in the group's equipment hire and housebuilding businesses. Assuming the company receives the official go-ahead to fly certain jets from its London City Airport, a further £7 million will be required for building works. He said that Mowlem was also looking to expand a number of its activities into the rest of Europe.

The new shares are priced at 265p, a 22.7 per cent discount to yesterday's opening price. Mowlem shares closed 12p up at 355p.

The rights issue accompanied Mowlem's figures for the year to end-December, which showed pre-tax profits up from £22 million in 1989 to £34 million. The 1989 profits were struck only after a £33 million exceptional write-down against London City Airport. Last year the company made provisions of £6 million against its residential land bank and commercial properties.

An unchanged final dividend of 15.35p is paid, to give an unchanged total of 21p. Sir Philip said: "We're not reporting a brilliant year and I expect 1991 to be no less challenging." He said that a recovery in the housing market would have a positive effect on a number of Mowlem's activities. Mowlem's housebuilding operation built 400 units during the year and reported an operating loss of £3.7 million.

The rate determined yesterday was 32 roubles, 35 kopecks per dollar - a rate that values the Soviet monthly wage at around \$10. But because of the poor turnover, the rate will not be used for individual transactions, Gosbank officials said. The central bank will attempt its next trading session on Tuesday, and for the meantime it will be happy if it can convene traders once a week.

Oleg Mozhaikov, a Gosbank executive, said restrictions on access to the market were needed because of the voracious appetite for hard currency of small private co-operatives and joint ventures, mainly for tax-dodging.

Gosbank's intention has been to hold trading sessions, operating by a simple form of open outcry, twice weekly. Under a new arrangement intended to mark a step towards convertibility, the "fixing price", determined by the professional market, is to be used by Soviet banks for the currency transactions of tourists and, within strict limits, Soviet citizens. The central bank set the new

purchase of raw materials, or at any rate some more lofty aim than speculation. In the old system of occasional currency auctions, under the aegis of Vneshekonbank, the foreign trade bank, enterprises could participate directly and with no questions asked.

Yesterday's low turnover reflected corporate clients' inability to prepare the necessary documentation in time, Gosbank insisted. "The session should be simply be seen a dress rehearsal," a spokesman said.

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Steady smile: Sir Philip Beck, chairman of Mowlem, is hopeful about the future

## Mowlem asks for £45m in rights

By OUR CITY STAFF

JOHN Mowlem has joined the growing band of house-builders and construction companies asking shareholders for new money by announcing a one-for-five rights issue that will raise £45.6 million after expenses.

Sir Philip Beck, the chairman, said the rights issue proceeds will be invested in the group's equipment hire and housebuilding businesses. Assuming the company receives the official go-ahead to fly certain jets from its London City Airport, a further £7 million will be required for building works. He said that Mowlem was also looking to expand a number of its activities into the rest of Europe.

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## Stanhope may sell buildings in London scheme

By MATTHEW BOND

STANHOPE Properties is likely to sell several buildings in its Broadgate development, the £1.6 billion office scheme built around Liverpool Street station in London.

The news came as the company's interim figures, and full-year results from UK Land, confirmed that the slump in the commercial property market was continuing.

In the six months to end-December, Stanhope made pre-tax losses of £33.8 million, compared to a profit of £20.1 million in 1989. The shares dropped 4.5p to 86p.

At UK Land the fall was more dramatic. The shares slid 25p to 115p after the company disclosed a pre-tax loss of £14.8 million for the year to end-September and a halving in net assets per share, had its accounts qualified and passed its dividend.

Stanhope's involvement at Broadgate is through Rosehaugh-Stanhope Developments, an associate company. Of the 12 buildings the associate has completed or is completing, it has sold only one, to Bankers Trust, and placed one other, phase four, on the market.

Phase four was marketed last summer at a reputed price of around £200 million but has yet to be sold. Yesterday Stanhope said that since the ending of the Gulf war there had been investor interest in phase four and in other buildings at Broadgate. Several discussions were in progress and the company was prepared to consider disposals "on a selected basis on acceptable terms".

Stanhope's figures were hit by £25.1 million of property provisions and a £14.7 million share of losses made by associated companies.

Analysts believe both figures largely relate to the Broadgate associate, which last year made a pre-tax loss of £41.1 million. As normal there is no interim dividend.

At UK Land, Colin Tert, the chairman, described last year as a "terrible year" and said that for any property company it had been a year "to control cashflow and stay in business". The company's auditor has qualified UK Land's accounts amid concern about the value of its biggest development, a business park at Northampton.

The auditor is concerned about the value of the project, both as a continuing development and, when completed, as a let investment.

Following the slide into losses, UK Land is not paying a final and only dividend (14.5p).

## Laidlaw declares truce with ADT

By ANGELA MACKAY

LAIDLAW, the Canadian waste services and motor company, has called a truce and withdrawn allegations of insider trading against Michael Ashcroft, the chairman of ADT, the car auction and security group in which Laidlaw holds 29 per cent.

The Canadian company said it had amended the suit filed in New York last week against ADT. Mr Ashcroft, and certain other directors, and dropped some of the allegations including one accusing Mr Ashcroft of improper dealings in BAA shares last year. Mr Ashcroft denied the allegation.

A spokesman for ADT said dropping the insider dealing allegation had been "a very good idea before the two parties sit down today at Laidlaw's board meeting in Toronto".

Both sides have been airing grievances about each other for the past ten days. ADT has accused Laidlaw of trying to take control of the company while

party to a standstill agreement. Laidlaw has alleged ADT manipulated assets to inflate profits.

However, peace plans were revived yesterday after Laidlaw apparently rejected ADT's compromise at the weekend. Donald Jackson, Laidlaw's president and chief executive, yesterday said he "encourages" Mr Ashcroft's proposal to list ADT shares on the New York Stock Exchange, to adopt quarterly reporting, to establish an audit committee and to reconstitute ADT's board to include independent directors and three Laidlaw nominees, and viewed them as "a positive first step".

Mr Jackson said: "These and related matters need to be discussed with ADT in substantially greater detail... to enhance value for shareholders and improve corporate governance." The chance for discussion will arise today at a meeting of Laidlaw's board. Mr Ashcroft is a director and is expected to attend.

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## Top computer firms agree on compatibility

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU in BRUSSELS

TWENTY of the world's leading computer companies have reached an agreement aimed at standardising the confusing array of computer systems and software.

The companies, with a joint turnover of \$50 billion and including Compaq, Microsoft, Olivetti, Bull, and NEC, are claiming that the decision represents the most important development in the computer industry in the Nineties. They add that it is comparable only with the introduction of the personal computer more than 10 years ago.

The 20, which have worked for more than two years on the agreement, announced yesterday here and in New York the launch of the so-called Advanced Computing Environment (ACE), an initiative that will ensure that the next generation of computers is compatible with a wide variety of microprocessor designs, operating environments and software products.

However, the agreement falls short of hopes that the industry would be able to agree on a single technical standards for personal computers. Instead, the differing standards will continue under ACE, but will be designed on the basis of an "open system".

The deal comes amid difficult times for the computer industry, which is suffering from excess capacity and strongly increased competition worldwide. The difficulties are particularly pronounced in Europe, where most computer makers are losing money. The increase in costs and competition is partly due to the multiplication of incompatible computer systems.

ACE will allow access between the two leading families of operating systems, one designed by Microsoft of America, which includes the familiar DOS system and the new graphical interfaces, DOS windows and OS/2, and Unix, a new generation system developed by the Santa Cruz Corporation.

ACE will ensure compatibility between various designs of chips, the Intel chips, as used on most personal computers, and the newer generation of so-called RISC chips. ACE will allow the consumer to upgrade to new computer generations, or new software products, without having to opt for the replacement of an entire system, while producers will avoid waste of resources on R & D.

Andreas Barth, the vice-president of Compaq Europe, predicted that ACE will become the "predominant system of the 1990s, different from anything ever seen in the industry before".

ACE compatible products will become available to programme writers later this year and to the end-users next year.

## Boosey moves up the profit scale



Hitting the right note: Richard Holland, the chief executive of Boosey & Hawkes

A DRAMATIC improvement in profit margins on the manufacturing of musical instruments lifted pre-tax profits at Boosey & Hawkes by 32 per cent to £3.25 million last year (Jonathan Prynn writes).

However, Richard Holland, the chief executive, said the prospects for this year should be viewed with some caution because "traditionally, the sale of instruments and sheet music is not affected until late in the recessionary cycle". Sales of musical instruments were down in the first quarter of this year, he said, although he expected an uplift later.

Operating profits of the instrument division increased by 36 per cent to £2.9 million on sales up 5 per cent to £38.8 million. Turnover and operating profits of the music publishing division increased by 2 per cent to £10.3 million and £2.6 million respectively.

A final dividend of 12.4p makes 16.4p for the year, up a third on the 12.3p paid for 1989. Earnings per share were 49.4p (37.2p).

## Expamet issues cash call to repay loans

By COLIN CAMPBELL

EXPAMET International, the building products group, is calling for £21 million before expenses via a one-for-three rights issue at 135p a share.

Jeremy Beasley, the chairman, says the funds will be used to repay bank loans to allow Expamet to accelerate development of existing business and make acquisitions. Expamet's borrowings total £35.5 million, compared with cash balances of £3.9 million.

## Betacom drops its dividend payment

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ABOVE and below the line provisions resulted in a £2.85 million attributable loss last year at Betacom, the telephone distributor under new management, which has dropped its dividend.

In spite of a small second-half trading profit, pre-tax losses for the year to end-December were £2.44 million (£278,000 profit). An exceptional cost of £2 million relates to stock provisions, additional depreciation and amortisation, and compensation for directors' loss of office. There is a £653,000 extraordinary item relating to writedowns on fax machines.

No dividend (1.1p) is being paid as the company has a deficit on its profit and loss account. Permission is being sought for a reduction in the share premium account to allow the deficit to be eliminated.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### New customers push Shandwick past £8m

SHANDWICK, the world's largest PR agency, won more than 600 new clients in the first half of the current year, pushing interim pre-tax profits up 12 per cent, to £7.59 million, up 4.7 per cent on the previous year.

Net bank debt was £39 million, though this is expected to decrease in the current financial period. The year end is changed to October 31 to reduce the imbalance between first and second halves. Two interim dividends will be paid: 1.18p (0.89p) for the first six months, a second announced in October, and a final dividend for the months to end-October. The shares improved 7p to 106.

### Erith drops to £2.3m

PRE-TAX profits at Erith, a builders' merchant, fell from £3.04 million to £2.3 million last year on a turnover of £77.7 million (£86.4 million). The total dividend is held at 3.9p, with an unchanged final of 2.6p, on earnings per share of 3.96p (4.77p). Erith plans to raise £2.8 million by a placing and open offer at 69p per share on a one-for-ten basis.

### P&O to list Hong Kong

THE Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) is to be listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange, Lord Sainsbury, its chairman, said. P&O is a radio programme in the colony. P&O sees Hong Kong becoming the Pacific headquarters for its interests, mainly in shipping, shipping, and shipping.

### Alexandra falls £0.9m

SMALLER workforces have led to thinner orders for Alexandra Workwear, supplier of uniforms and coveralls for industry. Pre-tax profits fell to £6.6 million (£7.5 million) in the year to February 2, leaving earnings per share lower at 13.4p (15.4p). The board, led by John Prior, chairman, is lifting the dividend to 5p (4.7p) with recommendation of a 3.2p final.

Redundancy and closure costs led to an £88,000 extraordinary charge. Garment volumes fell, but value services ensured that gross margins were maintained.

### City Centre figures up

CITY Centre Restaurants, the operator of Garfunkels and other restaurant chains, served up increased full-year profits, in spite of difficult trading conditions in the second half. Pre-tax profits rose to £10.6 million (£10.1 million) in the year to end-December. The final dividend is raised to 0.94p (0.815p), for an improved total of 1.39p (1.265p).

### Profits slump at Britannia

BRITANNIA Group, property group, has written £1.2 million off the value of land that it failed to sell in the second half. Pre-tax profits fell from £3.04 million to £2.3 million. A final dividend of 1.1p makes 3p for the year, compared with a 5p payout for 1989. Shareholders' funds at the year end were £8.33 million or 73.3p (73.4p).

### Bourne End £2m loss

FALLING bank interest rates have forced Bourne End Properties to write off a three-year interest rate cap acquired at a time of its £16 million purchase of a portfolio of Mag stores in March last year. With interest rates now below the level of the 13 per cent cap, Bourne End has written its value down to zero, resulting in a £585,000 exceptional item. Although rental income quadrupled to £3.6 million, a spike in profits from property sales resulted in the company reporting a pre-tax loss of £2.2 million (£1 million profit) year. The final dividend, halved to 1p, makes 2p (3p).

### Europa row comes to a head today

By PHILIP FANGALOS

A DISPUTE that has been brewing for several months is likely to erupt at today's annual meeting of Europa Minerals, the mining finance group.

Supporters of Alastair Holberton, a former managing director who left Europa last July after "policy disagreements", say they are dissatisfied with the current management and concerned at the erosion of their investment. Europa shares were floated at 100p in February, 1989. They closed yesterday at 17p.

The rebel shareholders will today seek to replace certain Europa directors with their own nominees.

Mr Holberton's followers have the backing of Abbey Life Assurance, holder of 9.7 per cent of Europa's capital, although today's outcome depends on how other institutional shareholders vote.

About 94 per cent of Europa's shares are held by 70 shareholders, with the balance spread among 2,100 others. First indications suggest about 90 per cent of smaller shareholders have voted by proxy to oust the directors up for re-election.

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### Fairhaven lifts payor

FAIRHAVEN Internet which has various Se and American interests in oil, gas and petrochemicals, is considering role it might play in reconstruction of R (Colin Campbell writes).

The group earlier announced plans for a London stock exchange, and is anxious to acquire shares. Last year, Fairhaven sold shares in shipping firms and a tanker for \$17.25 million to a \$1.42 million (total credit in the accounts).

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-December were £7.32 million (£7.32 million) turnover of \$301.1 million (£175.1 million). The dividend is 2 cents (1 cent).

### UK Optical THE TIMES

IN THE story "Boots to eye to the future", carried yesterday's editions, it stated that UK Optical's British production plant, in Kidwelly, south Wales, ceased production. The Times yesterday made it clear that UK Optical, part of American Optical Corporation, continues to trade.

### COMPANY BRIEFS

**BLOCKLEYS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £3.29m (£5.37m)  
EPS: 9.16p (14.03p)  
Div: 2.86p, mkg 4.81p

**BOSTON (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £3.05m (£2.90m)  
EPS: 24.8p (24.1p)  
Div: 3.5p, mkg 6p

**TUDOR (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £225,000  
EPS: 3.56p (5.94p)  
Div: 1.7p, mkg 2.7p

**SHERWOOD COMPUTER**  
Pre-tax: £1.95m (£2.02m)  
EPS: 17p (25p)  
Div: 3.75p, mkg 5.25p

**RIVA GROUP (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £1.46m (£1.33m)  
EPS: 12.01p (11.01p)  
Div: 2.75p mkg 4.4p

**NEW ENGLAND PROPS**  
Pre-tax: £1.56m (£3.11m)  
EPS: 1.2p (2.9p)  
Div: Nil

**THOMPSON CLIVE INV.**  
Pre-tax: £270,000  
EPS: 4.1p (2.7p)  
Div: 3.6p (2p)

**WESCOL GROUP (Inv)**  
Pre-tax: Loss £180,000  
EPS: 1.1p (EPS: 6.4p)  
Div: Nil (1.5p)

Last time's total dividend was £14.3m (£17.8m). Company expects little opportunity for improved trading this year.

Total dividend last time 5.75p. Turnover £35.2m (£28.6m). Net fully taxed earnings 16.6p (16.1p). Outlook remains unchanged.

Last time's profit was £384,000. Last time's total dividend was 2.7p. The company said that this quarter has been encouraging.

Final results. Last time's total dividend was £125,000 (£250,000). Turnover fell to £24.8m (£25.4m).

Total dividend last time was 4p. Extraordinary dividend of £983,000. Company said bank borrowing had been eliminated.

The comparative figures are for last time. Net assets per share were £2.50 (£2.50). Turnover fell to £2.93m (£4.44m).

Final results. Last time's profit was £454,000. Fully diluted net asset value was 168.8p (177.1p) and undiluted 168.9p (183.6p).

Last time's profit was £910,000. Exceptional debit of £579,000 (nil). Interest payments reduced to £193,000 (£94,000).

The new Motorola Personal is by far the smallest, and lightest, cellphone in the UK. And it's now available from Talkland at the lowest possible price of just £399 (plus VAT).

As you can see, the Motorola Personal is a unique design. The mouthpiece folds neatly away when not in use, so it will easily fit into your pocket.



Yet it doesn't sacrifice performance for size. A comprehensive list of features includes a 50 number memory with last number redial, 75 minutes of talktime from a standard battery, signal strength and battery level indicators and a clear, easy to read LED display.

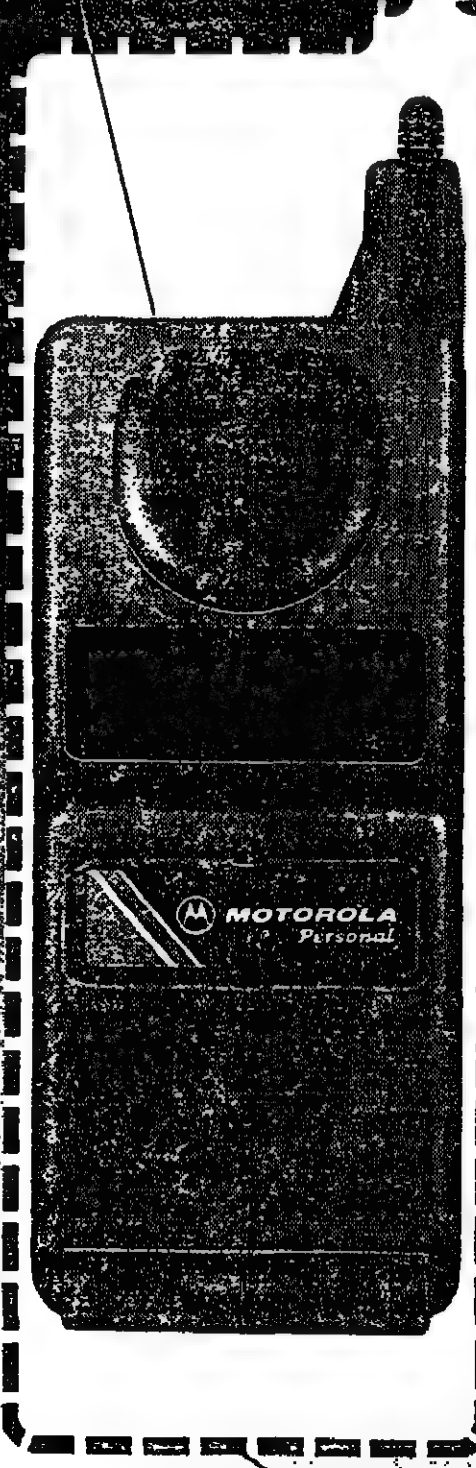
Then there's the optional extras, like a rapid charger and a carrying case. And you can also choose from various types of car kit.

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## New pl is a w card in travel g



Price premier: Peter Long, who has

believed they will not open until the banks they have approved without difficulty. Peter Long, who has been in the industry for 15 years, says that the new card will be a major step forward for the industry. He says that the card will be a major step forward for the industry. He says that the card will be a major step forward for the industry.

## Warsaw concerto

LENA BROAD, head of public relations for the past two and a half years at The Securities

Future on to the private sector. She has been in the industry for 15 years, and has been in the industry for 15 years.

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# Timely thoughts on a taxing issue

## COMMENT

greater impact in Whitehall now that the institute's former director, Bill Robinson, is Mr Lamont's special adviser.

The history of corporation tax is murky. Until 1973 all profits were taxed, whether distributed or not, and shareholders paid up again on receipt of the dividend. In 1973 the advanced corporation tax was then allowed to be offset against profits, but only those in the UK. And the 1984 reforms, sweeping away stock relief brought non-corporation taxpayers companies into the act.

IFS proposes that the tax would be levied on profits after deducting an allowance for the size of the shareholders' funds, adjusted for dividends and holdings in other companies.

Shareholders' funds would be calculated at end-year by adding in funds reinvested in the company at opening value, and consist of taxed profits, net of tax paid, dividends from British

companies, and new equity issues, less outflows in the form of dividends and share purchases from other companies at money cost.

Then relief on the return on these shareholders' funds would be calculated by allowing for an ordinary return on the money, referring to the return the Government was offering investors in medium dated gilt-edged stock.

This would allow ordinary commercial profits to roll up year after year without being taxed - encouraging directors to look at projects which they thought may be worthwhile but which may turn out to generate only a marginal return at the end of the day.

It would also put the cost of equity finance onto a similar putting the cost of debt finance.

Finance directors would have to be far less concerned about the balance between declared taxable profits now and future allowances. The IFS sees the reform offering valuable simplification of the tax system on the home front and a flexible route to harmonising corporate taxation in Europe.

Adding to the long campaign for neutral tax treatment of personal finances the IFS is now making a long overdue attack on the distortions in the corporate sector.

## Siting shot

Frankfurt's claim yesterday to be "the natural choice" for the site of a future European central bank should have provoked a few guffaws among the

weary finance ministers returning from the latest negotiating session over European monetary union in Luxembourg. After all, the Bundesbank, headquartered in Frankfurt, insists that there should be no Eurofied until 1997, while the French and Italians want a central bank by 1994.

Logic, as usual, is on the side of the Bundesbank. Setting up a Eurofied before member countries were ready to cede it real power would simply confuse the present ERM arrangements, which allow the Bundesbank to follow its own targets while everyone else falls into line. This is precisely what the French want to overcome by sliding as quickly as possible into an ill-defined Stage Two of Emu.

This tension between the Germans and the French could present a golden opportunity for the City of London, if only the government could pursue Britain's national interests

instead of arguing over Thatcherite totems. If Britain abandoned its nonsensical plan for a new parallel currency and backed one side or another in the debate over the timing of Emu, its swing vote could well carry the day.

The government should make it clear that the price for its support would be the siting of the Eurofied in London. A compromise might then look like this. The French could get their way on the 1994 starting date. Germany could be persuaded to agree to this, provided the Eurofied was given real power over the monetary policies of an inner core of low-inflation countries, including both Germany and France. A further sweetener would be to put a German in the chair - Karl Otto Pöhl would be young enough to do the job in 1994, but not in 1997. As for Britain, it could keep monetary control outside the Eurofied until 1997 or later, for good economic reasons. As for the politics of "second class" Euro-citizenship, having the Eurofied in London could certainly allay this fear.

## New customers Shandwick

SHANDWICK, the world's largest producer of new customers, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

## Erith drops to £2.3m

THE ERITH GROUP, a leading supplier of industrial machinery, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

## Alexandra falls

ALEXANDRA, a leading supplier of industrial machinery, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

## City Centre figures up

CITY CENTRE, a leading supplier of industrial machinery, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

## Bourne End

BOURNE END, a leading supplier of industrial machinery, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

## Europa comes to a head today

EUROPA, a leading supplier of industrial machinery, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

## Fair lifts

FAIR, a leading supplier of industrial machinery, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

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## Warsaw concerto

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## Barnes' stormer

BARNES, a leading supplier of industrial machinery, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

## David Hood

DAVID HOOD, a leading supplier of industrial machinery, has reported a 10 per cent increase in new customers in the first three months of 1991. The company, which has a turnover of £1.5 billion, is a leading supplier of industrial machinery to the construction industry.

# New player is a wild card in the travel game



Price promise: Peter Long, who has launched Sunworld

they believe they will sell almost all the breaks they have on offer without difficulty. That would mean little or none of the discounting that can savage profit margins. Last night came a move by a group of former Goodman lieutenants, led by Peter Long, former chief executive of ILG Travel, that will bring less certainty for all the players in the industry. ILG Travel, the package tours arm, was reportedly set to make good profits this year. ILG's terminal losses were on its airline

out undercutting on prices - "the industry has had too much of that sort of pain".

There are bound to be fears in the industry the Long form could lead to some oversupply of summer holidays, although Mr Long believes there will still be a shortage of package holidays in high season.

Rosemary Astles, marketing director of Thomson Tour Operations, which is leader with 32 per cent of the summer market in packages, said: "It has proved a difficult year so far. Things look better now. But there are still questions. We estimate now that this summer's trade will be between 5 and 10 per cent down on last year."

However she and other industry leaders must now wait to see what impact Sunworld will actually have, since putting on capacity is one thing and selling it another.

At the beginning of the booking season, Thomson had looked to sell 2 million holidays. Had ILG not gone down, Thomson estimates it would probably have sold about 1.8 million. After the ILG failure it has been looking to sell 2.2 million.

Similar benefits could be seen by the two other sizeable players among tour operators - Airtrans and Owners Abroad, both with about 12 per cent market share.

Holiday volumes in May and June are expected to be unexceptional because the main booking period for them fell during the Gulf war and were badly hit. Holiday bookings plunged during the Gulf confrontation by up to 70 per cent.

The drop turned off a cash-flow that would otherwise have been running because of booking deposits. This is what pushed companies over the edge and probably left some others uncomfortably close to it.

The question, especially if profit margins are squeezed harder this summer as competition builds again, will be not so much whether more failures occur but how many there will be.

DEREK HARRIS

# Mowlem builds a buffer

## TEMPUS

JOHN Mowlem spent last year getting its balance sheet into better shape than many observers believed possible.

In spite of a recession that had affected all Mowlem's construction related activities, gearing dropped from 52 per cent at the end of 1989 to 35 per cent at the end of last year, helped by an impressive performance from the group's construction and scaffolding divisions. Even now it has risen only modestly to about 39 per cent.

So why the need for a one-for-five rights issue at 265p, which raises a modest £45.6 million for the company and, until the board works out exactly what to spend it on, temporarily reduces gearing to just 13 per cent?

Cynics will point out that the cash call fills the hole made in the balance sheet by London City Airport, the pioneering but loss-making airport that opened for business in 1987 and which has already cost Mowlem £33 million in provisions.

Prospects for the airport, however, have seldom been brighter. A decision to allow certain classes of jets to use it is expected soon. By next year that could transform from white elephant to milk cow.

What the new money will provide is the financial muscle

to survive a difficult 1991, enabling the company to take advantage of any modestly sized opportunities that present themselves.

Having reported pre-tax profits of £34 million last year and total dividends of 21p, Mowlem will do well to make even the most modest advances this year. On a theoretical ex-rights price of 330p, its shares stand on an adjusted price/earnings multiple of over 14. High enough for now.

## Laird Group

WITH almost 80 per cent of its profits arising overseas, Laird Group ought soon to be in a position to shine. The company might have done better last year, had it not been for exceptionally high start-up costs of £3 million in Germany, Spain and America, although it did benefit by £1 million from favourable foreign-exchange movements.

As it is, pre-tax profits have emerged a shade below market expectations at £38.9 million (£43.7 million), with the company complaining that it ran into weaker demand from the French motor industry and felt the effects of Britain's recession in construction.

## Wardle Storeys

WARDLE Storeys can't appeal of a 6.5 per cent yield that its share price did not fall more than 12p to 306p yesterday on lower interim profits and a blunt warning about the second half.

Pre-tax interim profits down to £4.29 million (£5 million) to end-February were the aggregate of near-doubled profits from the safety and survival equipment interests and more than halved profits from the technical products division.

Net interest received was a handy £1.84 million (£1.8 million), generated on net cash balances that stood at about £30 million at last balance sheet date, although the impact of lower interest rates could see the second half net interest contribution slip.

The interim dividend is held at 4p a share but the second half is going to be at least as much of a struggle as the first.

While Wardle's parachute interests served it well, technical products, serving the British automotive industry, were hard hit by reduced volumes. Overseas expansion for technical products will help profits, but not this year.

The year's pre-tax outcome could be only £8 million, against £11.1 million, but there is no reason why the final dividend should not be held, if at the expense of earnings cover. For income attraction only.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

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was represented at the wedding by his wife, Mariene.

WITH the ADT London Marathon less than two weeks away, Michael Ashcroft is clearly worried about the publicity surrounding his public row with Laidlaw. Talk in the Square Mile is that he is paying Lowe Bell Communications, the PR agency, £10,000 a week to keep his image intact and a further £10,000 a week for the personal attention of master image maker Sir Tim "Tinker" Bell who runs Lowe Bell. Lowe Bell refused to confirm or deny the figures.

## Warsaw concerto

ELMA Brough, head of public relations for the past two and a half years at The Securities

Association - now to be known as the Securities and Futures Authority - is taking on an even steeper challenge. She has been appointed public relations adviser to Poland's privatisation programme, a role that will put her at the forefront of efforts to attract Western aid to boost the troubled Polish economy. Brough, an accomplished pianist, first visited Poland 14 years ago to carry out research for a doctorate on 17th century Polish music. She began her working life with the Foreign Office, which posted her back to Warsaw as press attaché to the British embassy. Clearly ambitious, Brough then studied for an MBA at Cranfield, paying the tuition fees herself, before joining TSA in 1988. "There is a strong emphasis in Poland on using foreign press relations to attract investment," says Brough, aged 37, who leaves for Warsaw on April 29. Geoffrey Turner, an SFA director, takes over her old job.

## Barnes' stormer

BELL Lawrie White, the Edinburgh broker, challenged City Diary readers to give alternative meanings for *Taurus*, the acronym for the electronic settlement system - transfer and automatic registration of uncertificated stock - due to be brought in by the International Stock Exchange next year. After wading through a huge pile of entries, the reader deemed to have dreamed up

the most amusing variations is Fred Barnes of Blackpool, whose entries included *The Add Up Really Useful System*, *Tips Are Unreliable Regarding Unstable Stocks*, and - perhaps prophetically - *This Answer Undoubtedly Receives Unlimited Scotch*. An 18-year-old bottle of Glenmorangie is, as promised, on its way...

## Board prescription

SIR John Quinton, chairman of Barclays, has allowed Ken Sinclair, chairman of BZW Securities, to join the board of Medeva, the fast-growing pharmaceuticals company that gained a full quote last year, as a non-executive director. Sinclair hopes to spare "one day a month" for his new job alongside his role in the Barclays group. "I'm sure they would have stopped me from doing it if they wanted," says Sinclair, aged 60, who has been associated with Barclays, in one form or another, for the past 37 years.

DAVID Hood, chairman of Europa, has turned down Nicholas Elliott's challenge to a 100-yard sprint up Cheapside. Elliott, aged 74, threw down the gauntlet in yesterday's City Diary after Europa suggested he was too old to join two other dissident directors on the board. "All three should sprint off into the sunset together and leave us alone," says an indignant Hood.

CAROL LEONARD

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## Portfolio

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stand-off. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Brit West	Bank/Discount	
2	MEPC	Property	
3	Domino	Electronics	
4	Wholesale Finings	Electronics	
5	Midland	Bank/Discount	
6	Home Counties	Newspaper/Pub	
7	Slim Water	Water	
8	BOC	Industrial A-D	
9	Sheffield Ltd	Building/Roads	
10	Fisons	Industrial E-K	
11	Sainsbury J	Food	
12	Motus	Industrial L-R	
13	Sandhill Beach	Industrial S-Z	
14	Marks Spencer	Drapery/Stores	
15	Barclays	Bank/Discount	
16	Rotork	Industrial L-R	
17	AB Food	Food	
18	BET Ord	Industrial A-D	
19	Color Op	Oil/Gas	
20	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Plas	
21	Angell	Food	
22	MEC	Transport	
23	Alcon	Drapery/Stores	
24	Bristol	Newspaper/Pub	
25	Wilkes (James)	Industrial S-Z	
26	Central TV	Leisure	
27	Rank Org	Industrial L-R	
28	St Telecom	Electronics	
29	Hammerston	Property	
30	Tarmac	Building/Roads	
31	Kwik-Fit	Motors/Aircraft	
32	Dava (Godfrey)	Industrial A-D	
33	Readfast	Property	
34	Chisham (H)	Transport	
35	St James	Oil/Gas	
36	Bibby LJ	Industrial A-D	
37	Brown Shipley	Bank/Discount	
38	Headlam	Shoes/Leather	
39	Powell Duffryn	Transport	
40	Reed Int	Newspaper/Pub	
41	RMC Co	Building/Roads	
42	Daves & Newman	Transport	
43	Lep	Transport	
44	Wagon Ind	Industrial S-Z	
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Please take into account any minus signs

#### Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

#### BRITISH FUNDS

15/3/80	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	15/3/80	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	15/3/80	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	15/3/80	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open

UNDATED	15/3/80	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open

INDEX LINKED	15/3/80	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	15/3/80	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open

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## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 2. Dealings end April 12. Contango day April 15. Settlement day April 22.  
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

15/3/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open

#### BREWERIES

15/3/80	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open

#### BUILDING, ROADS

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## Good reason for releasing document

those two cases he implicitly overruled. Court of Appeal in *Ma v Goldtech Investments* reported January 24, 1991.

His Lordship accepted that it was not easy to

whole of what the Appeal had said in the case with what the Vice-Chancellor had said in *Weldon*. However, his Lordship found the Vice-Chancellor's approach wholly logically satisfactory, and drew *inter alia*, to the fact that

His Lordship felt strongly to follow the Vice-Chancellor and Mr Justice H and to reject any

The European Court and the court were on the same issue and approach.

same criteria, and it was desirable that each should have the same for consideration. The five constituted "one persuasive reason" in meaning of the Cret decision.

## Departure from procedure in Commercial Court practice

## cedure in practice

which the action put in honesty or profession of a party or with greater the need for a formal statement of which he had to meet alertness to make sure interests were not subordinated to economy and despatch.

It was hoped the remarks would promp-  
tion in the minority  
where some departures  
ordinary practice in  
required.

## 'Poverty' impossible

# impossib

Entertainments Ltd. appeal from Birmingham Court's decision to Birmingham City Coun.

**LORD JUSTICE ST SMITH** said the purpose of the section, whose history goes back to a poor law Act of 1848 (54 Geo 3 C 170), was to protect poor persons becoming

on the parish because  
inability to pay rates.

## Recruitment Consultant


**The Company** Reliance Care • The largest specialist social care agency • established for over 24 years • successful and keen to expand their branch network • a team of highly motivated people who enjoy their work.

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with photo to:

**Fischer  
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el, Belgium.**

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ADMINISTRATOR**

UK's leading independent pathology laboratory, re-  
located to prestigious new premises in Camden, has  
experienced Personnel Administrator, salary and ben-  
efits negotiable. A good working knowledge of employment  
legislation and experience of recruitment would be  
necessary together with sound experience in recruitment  
administration.

Please send your CV with a covering letter to  
Taylor, Personnel Director, JS Pathology plc, 10  
Florence, 31 Jernington Road, London NW9 6PL  
Telephone Justice Hart on 071-267 2672 for more  
information.

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... Albert Museum  
... Hampton

... 071 938 8534.  
... application: 3 MAY 1991

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Director of The Conde Nast  
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At Christie & Co., we value ability, initiative, enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism. They have helped us become market leader in our business sector.

If you can bring similar attributes to one of these senior secretarial roles, you will become a valued member of our Head Office team.

Your assistance is now needed within our Corporate & Acquisition Division, which advises and assists major companies on the marketing and sale or purchase of many hundreds of businesses, both UK and overseas, every year.

We are looking for two experienced Secretaries - confident, articulate and capable.

## Deputy M.D.'s Secretary

Valued at c.£14,000 p.a.

Our Deputy M.D. plays a leading part in running the company, as well as heading the division.

You will therefore be dealing with confidential matters on behalf of corporate clients at the highest level.

## Divisional Secretary

Valued at up to £12,000 p.a.

Your task will be to provide vital secretarial support to the entire team.

Each role calls for an organiser/administrator with a commonsense, flexible approach. All round office, secretarial, typing and up to date new technology skills are a must, but training will be provided in our systems, including Lotus 1-2-3, as required.

Please mark your envelope Private & Confidential, clearly stating which position you are applying for, to Chris Day, Deputy Managing Director, Christie & Co., 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NW.

CHRISTIE & CO

## Fluent in French?

### BILINGUAL PA TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR READING AREA

Our client is an established company based in Reading. Their brands are household names and they are part of a leading European group of companies. They now need an experienced and mature bilingual PA to the Managing Director.

Often arranging travel and meetings, you must be fluent in spoken French and have excellent organisational skills. You'll be dealing with correspondence from the head office in Paris, which will involve some translation. We will also expect you to look after the office in the Managing Director's absence.

That's not to say you won't be fulfilling the usual secretarial duties—with good typing and shorthand skills and the ability to use a Displaywrite 4 wordprocessor, for which we can provide cross-training.

A competitive salary is supported by a range of company benefits including a contributory pension scheme, 25 days holiday and subsidised staff restaurant in our new modern offices.

Please send your CV enclosing full salary and career details, quoting reference C961 to Clive Sexton, Juniper Woolf Consulting Partners, Gemini House, 180 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3TQ.



SEARCH & SELECTION - RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING

## SECRETARY

The London office of a prominent US firm of Attorneys requires an experienced secretary, age 30+. First class skills (Shorthand, DW4/Wordperfect), together with a good telephone manner and the aptitude to use your own initiative are prerequisites for this position.

Experience in the legal field as well as fluency in a European language are preferred, but not essential. Salary will be commensurate with experience and in addition we offer 5 weeks holiday, PPP, season ticket loan, life assurance, PHI, etc.

Please forward your c.v. stating your current salary to Miss Roma Clucas, Covington & Burling, Acheson House, 46 Hertford Street, London W1Y 7TF.

NO AGENCIES.

## WHITEHEAD MANN INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SEARCH

### SENIOR SECRETARY

£16,500 plus bonus

We wish to recruit immediately, a bright, diligent secretary to work for two Consultants. Fast, accurate presentation of reports; constant contact with high-profile clients and candidates; diary management; travel arrangements and the ability to work under pressure are pre-requisite.

If you have exacting standards, a sense of humour and a flexible team-spirited approach to working in a friendly but highly professional environment, please write with full c.v. to:

Miss J.F. Wright, Whitehead Mann Group plc, 50 Whitehead Street, London, W1M 7EE.

Age: 25-33 Typing Speed: 70 wpm (No Agencies Please)

## Fistful of Brokers!

£17,000 + bonus

Successful and expanding Insurance Brokers need a PA for the MD and Director of their North American Division. These two are endearing big characters - popular and charismatic but hard-headed and demanding. They need a strong-minded PA with social 'bours' and insurance experience to sort out their chaotic business lives.

There's plenty of client contact, complicated itineraries to keep you on your toes and a sociable and lively bunch of brokers to provide light relief. Age range 23-25, skills 100/60/WP.

Please call Victoria Harrington today on 071 588 3535 for an immediate interview.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## LEGAL AUDIO SECRETARY

£17,000+

We are a leading firm of West End Solicitors renowned for the quality of our service. We urgently require an experienced and enthusiastic secretary who's used to working under pressure at senior level. You should have company law and conveyancing experience, 70 wpm typing and be between 25 to 35.

Please write with CV to Box No 3337

## Efficient Secretary

required for Investment Director and Management Surveyor of small commercial property company in Chelsea. WP and Audio skills essential. Hours 9.00 am - 6.00 pm. Salary negotiable.

Please reply to Kate Freeman on 071 376 4601.

## PA/SECRETARY - MAYFAIR

Prestigious firm of Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents situated in Mayfair requires a PA/Secretary to work for the Chairman and also the Regional Manager of the Country House Department together with Office Manager duties.

Audio skills required and accurate typing.

Write with CV to See Subeditor, Jackson-Stops & 34 1/2 Cannon Street, London W1Y 7TH

Audio skills required and accurate typing.

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Audio skills required and accurate typing.

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## EXECUTIVE PA

£20,000

Assist the dynamic managing director of this financial organisation specialising in corporate finance. Your boss is keen to delegate and there will be lots of scope to develop this highly responsible role. 90/60 skills needed. German or Spanish useful only.

Please telephone 071 248 3744 for more information.

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Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MULTILINGUAL DIVISION

## BRIGHT ACCOUNTS

SECRETARY/PA/

GIRL FRIDAY

Extremely capable, hardworking, mature secretary for rapidly expanding communications Co. in SW11. Work involves constant contact with clients, negotiating deals & client contact. Excellent prospects. Must have computer experience & 55 wpm minimum. Age 23-30. Apply enclosing c.v. to: Noble House, 5 Andover Street, London SW3 3LL.

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## ALDINE HONEY & COMPANY

Small hyperactive Central London Estate Agency needs

## PA/ OFFICE MANAGER

Your job is to assist in all aspects of the Sale and Rental Department of this busy Agency. You must be personable, energetic, efficient, numerate and self-motivated. Previous experience in the property field would be an advantage but must have sound secretarial and accounts experience. Would suit a career minded secretary wishing to move on from a solely secretarial role.

SALARY £15,000 PLUS CAR (a.s.e.)

C.V. to Aldine Honey & Co., 33 St. George's Drive, London SW1V 4DQ

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## MANAGE MONEY

£15,000

Highly successful British Fund Managers based in London are seeking a reliable and capable Secretary/Assistant to work with a Pension Fund Manager and 3 other executives.

Very smart offices in a Riverside location await successful candidates who will have skills of 90/60. You will have a good manner with clients and colleagues and be looking forward to consolidating your financial oriented track record.

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Secretarial Recruitment Consultants

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## Three good reasons for visiting The Times at the London Secretary Show.

It's England's foremost show for P.A.s and Secretaries and one of the big attractions will be The Times 'La Creme de la Creme' Stand.

Everyone who visits the stand can receive a superb package of Sensiq skin care products absolutely free. Pamper yourself with Sensiq's fragrance-free range of pure and gentle products, specially designed to protect and care for your skin, even if sensitive; normally they would cost at least £14.95, but they're yours for nothing.

All you have to do is cut out the 'Creme' coupon printed in The Times on Monday 15th April, and bring it with you to the stand.

In addition there will be an hourly prize draw where we will give away a basket containing over £30 worth of gifts - all the more reason for joining us at Olympia.

\*Offer subject to availability.

THE LONDON SECRETARY SHOW - OLYMPIA 2

17th - 19th APRIL

THE TIMES La Crème de la Crème



هنا من الأفضل























# Resolution a

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FROM STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, WARSAW

**MANCHESTER UNITED (from):** L. Sealey, D. Irwin, M. Donaghy, S. Bruce, G. Pallister, M. Phelan, C. Blackmore, P. Ince, N. Webb, B. McCair, M. Hughes, L. Sharpe.

**LEGA WARSZAWA (from):** Z. Robakiewicz, A. Gmur, P. Czerwinski, M. Jurczyk, J. Bak, D. Czyzdar, K. Awencik, L. Pisz, J. Sobczak, W. Kowalczyk, J. Ciolek, A. Salamon.

**By CHRIS MOORE**

As a former Celtic player, Macari fits the bill on at least one significant count: the club's last four managers — McNeill, David Hay, Jock Stein and Jimmy McGrory — all played for the club.

For more information, please contact the National Center for Lesbian Rights at 1000 Broadway, Suite 1000, New York, NY 10018. Tel: 212-333-8900. Fax: 212-333-8901. Email: [info@nclrights.org](mailto:info@nclrights.org). Website: [www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org).

**Putting the champion in the shade: the World Boxing Organisation middleweight challenger, Gary Stretch, right, rubs shoulders with the enigmatic Chris Eubank at Park Lane yesterday. Report, page 36**

federation doctor, Walter Redant, said. Any recycling of an athlete's own blood to enhance performance is considered illegal by the International Olympic Committee.

## By LOUISE TAYLOR

"We are going to have 18 or 20 or 22 clubs calling themselves the Premier division," he said. "Well, what's the difference to these 22 clubs playing each other now in the

**By PETER BALL**

"We are going to have 18 or 20 or 22 clubs calling themselves the Premier division," he said. "Well, what's the difference to these 22 clubs playing each other now in the

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK  
IN PORT OF SPAIN

average, only a ball-a-minute. He managed it, even with Hooper bowling 25 overs of

**BILL Shoemaker**, the most successful jockey of all time, was critically ill in a Californian hospital last night after a car accident late on Monday.

local time. He was alone in the car and no other vehicle was involved.

Joe Flores, an officer with the California Highway

greatest. It's very sad he was doing very well as a trainer."

**Marja switch**



Sherrill, Linda

هكذا من الأصل